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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXIII, Issue No. 8

FRIDAY JANUARY 11, 2013

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OPINION METER

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Did you come up with a New Year's resolution this year?

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INSIDE

NATION



Joe Biden vowed urgent action against gun violence in America.

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ASIA



Kanakanavu gave birth to languages spoken today. Now it is dying.

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LIFE & STYLE



"The Hunger Games" devours the competition at the People's Choice Awards.

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IF BUCKINGHAM COMES BACK

'Govt not going to pay costs'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial hinted at the possibility that former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham may be planning to return to the CNMI to face charges against him and clear his name.

» **Fitial believes former AG wants to return to clear his name**

In an interview with reporters, Fitial said that if Buckingham is indeed planning to come back to Saipan, then the government is not going to shoulder any costs.

"I don't know why he's doing that, but my suspicion is, I think he wants to come here and clear his name," said Fitial in an interview Wednesday.

The governor said the extradition issue is now with Attorney General Joey San Nicolas and the attorneys.

"We don't need to extradite him if he's coming," Fitial added.

Attorney Brian Sers Nicholas, counsel for Buckingham, filed in Superior Court on Wednesday an *ex parte* request for a

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DISABILITY ADVOCATE

Some 50 participants of the presentation sponsored by the CNMI Tri-Agency pose for a group photo with visiting Fulbright scholar Yevgeniy Tetyukhin, seated center, after yesterday's event at the Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

See story on Page 2

Fund renews health insurance with Aetna

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Retirees and members of the NMI Retirement Fund can now heave a sigh of relief after the pension agency renewed its insurance policy, this time with a significant reduction in premiums.

According to Fund counsels Braddock Huesman and Daniel Berman, trustee *ad litem* Joseph C. Razzano successfully negotiated a new and lower health plan that will save the agency, its members, and the government up to \$4 million.

On Nov. 30, 2012, the court autho-

rized the trustee *ad litem* to negotiate for the Fund members' Group Health Life Insurance Program. The policy expired on Dec. 31, 2012.

Using emergency procurement, Razzano negotiated and executed a one-year

renewal of the Aetna Health Insurance Policy

so that health coverage would be preserved for both current employees

and retirees. Due to the board's lack of quorum, the insurance policy was never acted upon by the previous board until it expired in December.

Under the 2013 renewal policy, there will be an 18.31-percent reduc-

» **New policy shows 18.31 pct. reduction in premiums**

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Port needed to address shortages on Rota

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

A proper seaport would be the permanent solution to Rota's periodic shortage of basic goods and other commodities, a problem that has crippled living conditions of residents and normal operations of businesses on the island, according to Mayor Melchor A. Mendiola.

In a phone interview yesterday, Mendiola emphasized that the Rota community will continue to remain at risk of running out of supplies until a port capable of handling all kinds of sea vessels that can transport any kind of merchandise becomes operational.

"If we provide the proper port where

ships can dock and visit us, then we are addressing the problem," he said.

Mendiola confirmed statements of several store employees on Rota regarding the island's current shortage on butane gas and other basic goods such as salt, soy sauce, sugar, cooking oil, and frozen imports. He said rough seas hamper the delivery of goods to Rota, resulting in empty shelves in stores.

"We are forced to bring the goods by air, contributing to greater prices. The people are barely making it to purchase the items that they need," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

According to Mendiola, they have been informed that the barge that deliv-

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Dela Cruz: People's mandate will be satisfied. PAGE 2
Hospital finally gets a new CT scan. PAGE 8

Local

Fulbright scholar urges self-advocacy for those with disabilities

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

A visiting Fulbright scholar from Kazakhstan underscored the need for governments of countries and sovereign states throughout the world, including the CNMI, to start promoting self-advocacy for people with disabilities as the world continues to change and become "more human."

Yevgeniy Tetyukhin, linguistics professor at the North Kazakhstan State University, said yesterday that while each country has its own priorities, its level of civilization is measured by the attitude of that country to its population of PWDs.

Self-advocacy, Tetyukhin said, would make PWDs feel that they are an integral part

of society and encourage them to become more involved and lead active lives, while making the rest of the community learn about the culture of disability.

"Every life is dear. The more participation there would be from people with disabilities, the better it would be for the country," he said in an interview during a break from yesterday's presentation on disability held at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

The presentation is made possible by the Northern Marianas College University Centers of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities in collaboration with the Council on Developmental Disabilities and the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc., which comprise the CNMI Tri-Agency.

Over 50 agency representatives, educators, and consumers attended the presentation, which Tetyukhin described as focusing on the disability program of Kazakhstan and the world as well as teaching and living disability and self-advocacy.

Himself a person with disability, Tetyukhin cited as an example the transformation happening in his native country, which previously treated PWDs as if they did not exist.

"Right now, it's a shame for the country not to see the PWDs," he said, adding that their government's priorities include becoming a developed industrialized country and finding ways to make the PWD population wholly integrated in the community.

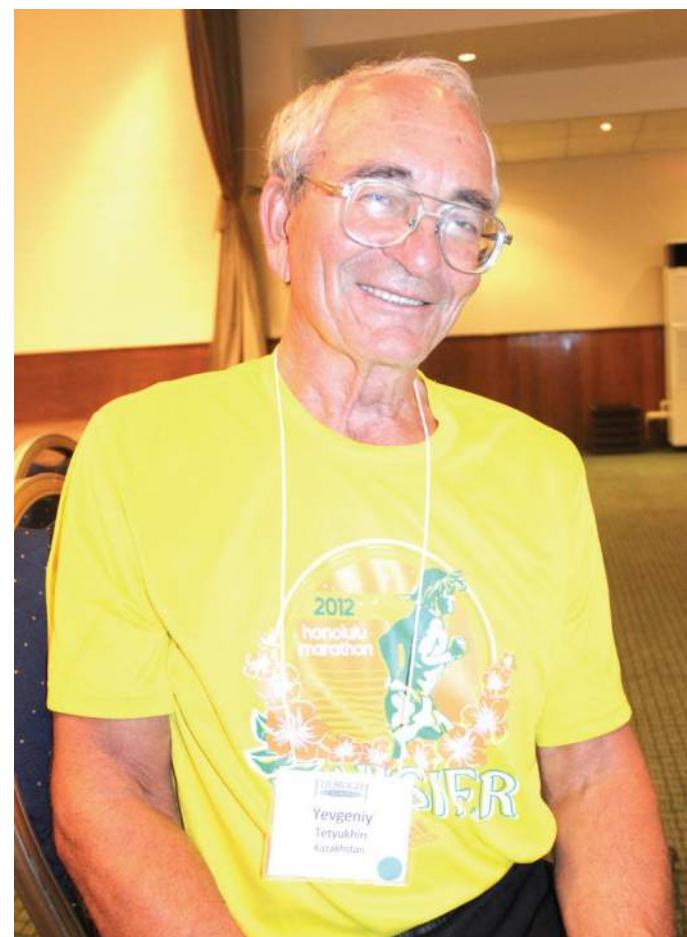
Tetyukhin, who visited Guam

and Saipan during this trip, noted that the diversity in both territories is similar to that in Kazakhstan where people of different nationalities, religious backgrounds, and life orientations are merged.

He said the disability culture is a "special diversity" in a multicultural and modern world, which is a component of the research work he began in September 2012 at the Center on Disability Studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Tetyukhin said the five-month study program touches on teaching and learning the disability culture throughout the world, allowing him to conduct presentations and lectures along the way.

Tetyukhin, whose paralyzed leg was a result of a protracted



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Fulbright scholar Yevgeniy Tetyukhin is a linguistics professor at the North Kazakhstan State University.

illness with polio, travel the world not only as part of the academe but also as an athlete, completing more than 150 international wheelchair marathons and participating in the Paralympic Games in Sydney and Athens.

"I can see that sports is one of the means of rehabilitation for [PWDs] because it teaches them to find a new world and is also part of teaching self-advocacy," he said.

Tetyukhin said he will continue with his mission to become a voice for all PWDs, encouraging them to find their

way to enjoy life.

"I'm always saying to PWDs, never say die," he told *Saipan Tribune*. "Life is wonderful and you can enjoy it no matter what kind of disability you have."

NMC's Floyd Masga said they are very pleased with yesterday's turnout, saying that the attendees were involved in the presentation as they raised interesting questions.

"My hope is that it will promote self-advocacy and show the people of the Commonwealth that there is a way and here is an example," added Masga.

Dela Cruz: People's mandate will be satisfied; transparency

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Incoming House vice speaker Frank Dela Cruz (IR-Saipan) said yesterday that people can expect their mandate to be satisfied in the 18th House of Representatives and that there will be transparency.

Dela Cruz said the new majority has committed themselves to work extra hard on issues such as the Commonwealth Health Center, the NMI Retirement Fund, and the high cost of electricity.

"And I will be honest with you, it will take a concerted efforts between the Legislature and the administration to work on these issues. And we commit ourselves to doing that, working with the administration," he said.

The lawmaker said the other

expectation the incoming House will try to satisfy is transparency in the Legislature.

"We have committed ourselves to air all committee meetings, not just sessions but each and every committee meeting so that the people are aware of what is going on in their Legislature," he said.

Rep. George Camacho (R-Saipan), in a separate interview, said he and the three other minority members in the incoming 18th House will meet to formally organize.

"It's a matter of addressing concerns, what are the other side's concerns because the leadership may have a position on an issue. If we disagree then we must come together as one unit and propose the other side whether we have the votes or not," said Camacho, who was floor leader in the 17th House.

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DUE TO NEW ARGUMENTS RAISED BY TRUSTEE AD LITEM

Federal court allows govt to file additional reply

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood has allowed the CNMI government to file an additional reply on the motion by the NMI Retirement Fund requesting a show-cause and contempt order against the government.

In her order issued Jan. 9, Tydingco-Gatewood granted the request of the government to file a "sur-reply," using as basis the new arguments raised by the Fund when it responded to the government's opposition to the motion for a show-cause order.

Sur-reply is an additional reply to a motion filed after the motion has already been fully briefed.

In a nine-page sur-reply filed Wednesday by the government through Attorney General Joey Patrick San Nicolas, it said that trustee ad litem Joseph C. Razzano raised several argu-

ments that he did not raise in his initial motion.

San Nicolas said the six new arguments include: 1) that the appointment order was a clear and unambiguous order that prohibited the government from nominating and considering trustees; 2) the government cannot rely on advice of counsel or a belief that an order was invalid as a defense to contempt; 3) the trustee ad litem, by definition, is for the duration of litigation; 4) assistant attorneys general Rena Patel and Gilbert Birnbirch should be made to show cause why they should not be held in contempt for not responding to a

letter from Fund counsel; 5) the government's conduct is contrary to the U.S. Constitution; and 6) no material facts are in dispute, making summary contempt proceedings appropriate.

According to San Nicolas, these new arguments are not supported by law and are merely an attempt by Razzano to mislead the court by misconstruing the government's arguments.

"First, the order appointing the trustee *ad litem* did not clearly and unambiguously prohibit the Commonwealth from nominating and confirming trustees to the board. As such, the Commonwealth did not violate the appointment or-

der by engaging in the statutory appointment process," said San Nicolas, adding that even if the trustees were confirmed, the trustees would not be able to assume their rightful positions until the court formally decides to relieve the *ad litem* of his duties.

San Nicolas said the government also does not intend to rely on either the advice of counsel or belief that the court order was invalid as a defense to contempt because it has not violated a clear and definite court order—an element required for both civil and criminal contempt. The trustee *ad litem*, he added, also fails to provide any legal support for his as-

sertion that his appointment does not necessarily last for the duration of the case.

San Nicolas also argued that Patel and Birnbirch did not violate a court order for failing to respond to the Fund counsel's letter since they did not receive the letter. These attorneys earlier claimed that the Fund letter went to their spam emails.

San Nicolas also argued that the Fund's motion for summary contempt proceedings is not appropriate in this case because summary contempt, he said, is reserved for exceptional circumstances such as acts threatening a judge or disrupting a hearing



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Senate confirms 5 appointees

The Senate has confirmed Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's five appointees to the Marianas Visitors Authority, NMI Retirement Fund board, and Medical Profession Licensing Board.

During the 17th Senate's sine die on Tuesday afternoon, all eight senators voted for the confirmation of Vicente M. Calvo to serve on the Marianas Visitors Authority board of directors representing Rota.

The senators also gave the nod to the governor's appointment of Jose T. Limes and Martin DLG. San Nicolas to the Fund board of trustees representing Carolinians and Tinian, respectively.

The senators also unanimously confirmed the appointment of Dr. Alan Markoff and Pamela A. Carhill as members of the Health Care Professional Licensing Board. (Ferdie de la Torre)

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Report: Apple may build less expensive iPhone

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Apple is trying to decide whether it makes sense to offer a cheaper iPhone as it tries to boost sales in less-affluent countries and reclaim some of the market share lost to cheaper phones running Google's Android software, according to a published report.

Wednesday's report in *The Wall Street Journal* speculated that Apple could lower the iPhone's price by

equipping the device with an exterior that costs less than the aluminum housing on current models.

A cheaper iPhone could come out as early as this year, or the idea could be tabled for future consideration, as has previously happened. Citing unnamed people familiar with the matter, the *Journal* said Apple began assessing the pros and cons of making a cheaper iPhone in 2009 and has periodically re-

visited the notion. Apple Inc. declined to comment to The Associated Press.

Apple so far has stuck with an approach that has stamped the iPhone as the gold standard, a device that warrants a higher price than other smartphones. Under this tack favored by Apple's late CEO, Steve Jobs, the company sells a premium-priced iPhone that has been updated annually with new features since its 2007 debut.

In an attempt to appeal to more budget-conscious consumers, Apple has been selling older models of the iPhone at discounts before phasing them out.

The latest iPhones start at \$199 in the U.S., but those prices are subsidized by wireless carriers, which figure they can make up the costs through monthly service fees over the life of a two-year contract.

The unsubsidized prices start at \$649. That is proving to be too much

for many people looking to stay connected on the go, prompting them to snap up more affordable smartphones, including Android devices made by Samsung Electronics Co. and others. Google Inc. doesn't charge for the Android mobile operating system, making it easier for device makers to undercut the iPhone. Apple doesn't allow rivals to use the iPhone's iOS operating system at all.

Android devices accounted for 75 percent of smartphone shipments during the three months ending in September, up from 58 percent at the same time in 2011, according to the research firm IDC. The iPhone's share stood at 15 percent in September, up from 14 percent in the previous year.

Google says more than 500 million Android devices have been activated since the software's release four years ago. By comparison, Apple had sold about 271 million iPhones through last September.

PORT

From Page 1

ers the supply of goods to the southernmost island of the Northern Marianas will arrive but the shipment always gets cancelled.

The last consignment arrived last month.

With stores running out of butane gas stock, residents are cooking outdoors using wood or electric stoves, which he described as "uneconomical" given the steep rates of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

"We need to seriously put in place the proper port facility before we can stop this nonsense fear caused by little rough waters, which is the reason why we would not be served," he said.

Mendiola said Rota currently has one port at the west section of the island, where the rough waters are concentrated due to trade winds and the flow of the current, putting any expansion plans on this harbor out of the equation.

He said his office is waiting for the results of a feasibility study spearheaded by the CNMI Capital Improvement Project Office and is now on its final stage.

"It's just a matter of finalizing the study, we'll see the results, then take it from there," said Mendiola.

Should the study reveal that the creation of a new port is the way to address the situation on Rota, the mayor said he already has the support of the Rota delegation and the governor.

Mendiola pointed out that the seaport remains a priority for his administration due to the island's pressing need, expressing concerns about the well-being of community members, particularly of the future generations.

"We don't want them to experience the same problem in the future, that's why we're trying to answer them now. We cannot continue to experience this," he added.

The "solution" is not only limited to the expansion of the seaport infrastructure on Rota, according to Mendiola. Even air transportation can still be expanded as the available cargo services are still at a very small scale, he explained.

"The only door to a better economy is a port of entry. If we enable a normal operation through air and sea, then there will be better opportunities for Rota because investors would start coming in," he said.



FIRST PLACE

Congratulations to the Saipan Southern JROTC Manta Ray Battalion Academic Bowl Team for placing first place out of the 105 JROTC school teams from Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa, California, Japan, South Korea, Nevada, Oregon and Washington. The Saipan Southern JROTC Manta Ray Battalion Academic Team competed during the 2012 Army 8th Brigade Academic Bowl Competition in Leadership, Education, and Training One Division. From left, Senior Army Instructor Command Sergeant Major (retired) Richard Basa, Cadet Sergeant First Class Son, Ah Hee (Team Leader), Cadet 1st Lieutenant Matias, Annika, Cadet Staff Sergeant Gabionza, Maximina, Cadet Sergeant Borja, Raymond, and Cadet Sergeant Johnson, William.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

FUND

From Page 1

tion from the 2012 rates. Depending on the number of enrollees, the 18.31 percent reduction equates to savings of approximately \$4 million. The government, which pays 50 percent of the premiums, stands to save up to \$2 million and the employees and retirees will realize a similar savings.

According to the Fund, Aetna initially offered to renew the policy at a decrease of 6.22 percent from the rates paid in 2012. After negotiations, Aetna agreed to a reduction of 18.31 percent for the 12-month period of the coverage, which will expire on Dec. 31, 2013.

The Fund disclosed that there are

approximately 2,400 individuals who benefit from the health coverage plan.

Some 1,078 members are enrolled as employees. They used to pay \$428.79 for their health coverage. This was reduced to \$350.28 per annum, a reduction of 18.31 percent.

For an employee with one dependent, the rate was \$879, which was reduced to \$718.06 under the 2013 policy. Records show that there are 804 enrolled under this category.

For an employee with family category, the rate was \$1,372.10, later reduced to \$1,120.87, an 18.31-percent adjustment. There are 500 members enrolled in this category.

The new policy will bring \$339,644 monthly savings—or \$4.075 million in 12-month period.

real need to come up with a workable schedule that not only addresses the court's concerns "but also those of Buckingham's health vis a vis schedule of treatments."

When asked for comments about Buckingham's plan, Fitial said the main reason he knows of why the former attorney general left the CNMI was because of his health.

"Because his wife told him, if you don't want to listen to me, then bye," Fitial said.

Buckingham, according to the governor, had promised him that he will serve as attorney general until Fitial finishes his term as governor.

Unfortunately, Fitial said, Buckingham became very sick.

As for the recommendation of Office of Public Auditor legal counsel George L. Hasselback to have Buckingham

Govt excluded

The governor's legal counsel, James Stump, in a letter dated Jan. 9 to Joyce H. Tang of Civille & Tang, PLLC, refused to provide the government's comment on the new health insurance policy, saying the government was never accorded the opportunity to review the actual contract with the insurance carrier.

"First it would be improper for the administration to comment on the health and life insurance contracts without ever reviewing the actual full contract," stated Stump in his letter, which was filed in court. He said that, although the Fund provided a summary of some terms of the new policy, a complete copy of the contract was never attached.

extradited, the governor said he asked San Nicolas to look into it and give recommendations.

Fitial said there is no such thing as a fixed legal opinion as anybody who has a legal mind can draft a legal opinion on an issue.

"But that doesn't make it the Bible. In other words, Buckingham has his own Bible. Another attorney may also have his own Bible. So we have a lot of Bible (sic)," he pointed out.

Early this week, Hasselback submitted his recommendation to Fitial for Buckingham's extradition to face the criminal charges filed against him.

Without a warrant from the governor for Buckingham's extradition, Hasselback said the case against the former attorney general cannot proceed and the "ends of justice would be frustrated as the Commonwealth's interest in see-

According to Stump, in negotiating the 2013 policy, the Fund excluded the CNMI government from the negotiation process, despite its fiduciary duties.

"In fact, I offered to assist Joseph Razzano, the trustee *ad litem*, in this process in order to compensate for his unfamiliarity with Commonwealth health insurance contracts and procurement laws. However, the [trustee *ad litem*] threatened court action against me if I did not refrain from actions meant to assure compliance with Commonwealth procurement laws requirements," said Stump, adding that he is concerned that the government has not received a full copy of the contract or documentation to ensure proper procurement regulations have been followed.

ing its laws upheld would be thwarted."

Hasselback was named conflict counsel in this matter as San Nicolas and the Office of the Attorney General had potential conflicts in the case.

San Nicolas designated Hasselback as special prosecutor to assess the criminal charges against Buckingham and to determine whether the interest of justice requires the latter's extradition.

OPA filed seven criminal misdemeanor charges against Buckingham in relation his alleged hosting of a delegate candidate's campaign party and some allegedly questionable sole-source contracts.

An FBI special agent reportedly served Buckingham with the penal summons at the Saipan International Airport shortly before he and his wife left Saipan on a 6am Delta flight to Narita, Japan on Aug. 4, 2012.

GOVT

From Page 1

status conference in his criminal case.

An *ex parte* motion is an application to the court by one of the parties to a case without the other party being present or heard.

Sers Nicholas asked the court to set dates for Buckingham's arraignment, for the hearing of his pretrial motions, and for his trial, if one should become necessary.

In the footnote to his motion, Sers Nicholas said the former attorney general "is presently undergoing medical treatment, all the while trying to accommodate the court's concerns, not to mention his right to a fair and speedy trial."

Sers Nicholas said there exists a

Intoxicated defendant cited for criminal contempt

Superior Court associate judge Joseph N. Camacho sentenced Jessie James Lisua yesterday to six months in prison for disregarding a court order that barred him from drinking alcoholic beverages.

Lisua, 30, reportedly showed up for his probation review hearing on Dec. 3, 2012, intoxicated. He was tested with a blood alcohol level of .206, almost three times the legal limit for driving a car.

By this action, the judge ruled that Lisua willfully refused to follow the judgment and com-

mitment order issued in his criminal case that prohibited him from consuming alcohol during his probation.

Lisua was sentenced last year to 53 days in prison for assaulting his girlfriend. He was required to abstain from consuming alcohol.

Despite this, according to Camacho, Lisua chose to come to court intoxicated and flaunt his disrespect of the court order.

"Court orders are not suggestion that can be disregarded whenever a defendant feels like it. The knowing disregard of a

court order is a sign of disrespect to the court, which cannot go unpunished," stated Camacho's order.

Lisua was slapped with a six-month prison term without the possibility of parole, with credit for time served. The sentence shall start immediately.

Lisua shall also be placed on one-year probation upon his release. Camacho also ordered the defendant to undergo anger management counseling and barred him from consuming alcohol or any controlled substance. (Moneth G. Deposa)

Senate OKs measure that removes health insurance for alien workers

The Senate has passed on final reading a bill that seeks to remove the mandated medical insurance coverage benefit provided to nonresident workers.

During the 17th Senate's last session on Tuesday, the senators agreed to pass House Bill 17-147 to remove the mandated benefit for foreign workers.

The Senate transmitted the bill to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial for approval.

Then-representative Diego T. Benavente introduced the legislation on Jan. 28, 2011. The House passed the bill on April 24, 2012.

The Legislature determined that with the minimum wage increased to \$5.05 an hour, certain benefits provided to nonresident workers should no longer be required.

Previously, benefits provided

to alien workers include medical insurance coverage, free housing, food, transportation, etc. because of the low minimum wage.

"The removal of the mandated benefits will create fairness for all employees within the Commonwealth, nonresident and resident workers alike," said Benavente in the bill co-authored by Reps. Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan), Antonio P. Sablan (IR-Saipan), and Ramon A. Tebuteb (IR-Saipan). (Ferdie de la Torre)

Prayer to the HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Spirit Thou who makes me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with you and my loved ones in your perpetual glory. AMEN.

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Kagman residents push for renovation of village's center

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The president of the Kagman Community Center is pushing for major renovation of the village facility that hosts their newly launched after-school educational program.

Daniel Huh said yesterday that the renovation plan is backed by other center of-

ficials and the community in general as the structure has not been renovated since its construction in 2000.

Huh said they hope to make Kagman the "best educational district" on island, and the only way to do this is to have a functional community center where students can continue learning beyond the four walls of classrooms.

He disclosed that they have received over the years many complaints from center's clients regarding certain features of the structure that are already defective or out of order.

Huh said contractors estimate that the center will need \$20,000 in funding for renovation priorities, which include the replacement of the screens on windows and doors; replacement of metal

doors and fabricating protecting walls; repair of the existing lift; replacement of wood panels on the staircases and the stage; repair of toilets, water tank and pipes; replacement of the water pump, and repainting of the center.

Another \$15,000 is needed to replace the old and unusable air-conditioning units, while close to \$22,000 is needed to cover the installation of solar lights—bringing the minimum cost of renovation and improvement work to \$57,000.

Huh said the Kagman community, through volunteer center officials, is seeking funding for the proposed project from the incoming 18th Legislature.

Huh expressed his appreciation to all those who join them in their effort to make the renovation project a reality: the two new lawmakers; volunteers from the Northern Marianas College; Kagman High School teachers and students; Kagman Elementary School sixth graders, teachers, and parents; Esther Fleming of the Governor's Office; and former representative Rosemond Santos for her assistance in getting furniture and solar lights from Sen. Glenn Wakai of Hawaii.

In the meantime, Huh said they are working on getting more students involved in the center's after-school program.

"Kagman has the potential to be the best village on Saipan," he added.

For more information about the Kagman Community Center, call 285-2221 or email kagmancommunity@gmail.com.

"Because the Kagman Community Center does not have big funding, it is critical that we get the support of the Legislature."

According to Huh, they already met with Precinct 5 representative-elect Larry Deleon Guerrero who promised to give his full support to the project once he is sworn in. Huh said that prior to their Jan. 9 letter to Deleon Guerrero, the newly elected lawmaker vowed to sponsor a bill that would allocate funding for the center's renovation.

Huh said they also communicated with another representative-elect, Tony Agulto, who is also eager to help his constituents in Kagman.

Huh expressed his appreciation to all those who join them in their effort to make the renovation project a reality: the two new lawmakers; volunteers from the Northern Marianas College; Kagman High School teachers and students; Kagman Elementary School sixth graders, teachers, and parents; Esther Fleming of the Governor's Office; and former representative Rosemond Santos for her assistance in getting furniture and solar lights from Sen. Glenn Wakai of Hawaii.

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Mt. Carmel School gears up for musical adaptation of 'Footloose'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Mount Carmel School's Theater Club opens 2013 with the staging this month of a musical adaptation of the '80s blockbuster *Footloose*.

The show, slated for Jan. 24 and 25, will feature dancing to top 40 hits such as *Let's Hear It For The Boy*, *Almost Paradise*, *Holding Out For A Hero*, and the title song, *Footloose*. This musical performance will mark the club's 29th production since its inception in 1996.

Preparations for the show began in August last year when the Theatre Club selected senior and longtime art designer Ashley Olarte as the director for the club's next production. Olarte, in turn, chose *Footloose* for the club's performance.

Asked why she picked the show, Olarte said: "I love how there's this girl, Ariel, who is trapped and who wants to escape, if only by dancing. That's something I and many other people I know can relate to."

Once the club was granted the license for the show from Rodgers and Hammerstein The-

atricals, auditions were held and rehearsals and choreography sessions began soon afterwards.

Production crewmembers also began preparing the set, props, costumes, hair, makeup, and the technical design for the show.

The show's lead actors are Theatre Club veterans Victor Cabrera and Janelia Revilla, who will play Ren McCormack and Ariel Moore, respectively.

Cabrera is nervous but looks forward to the performance. "Having seen how this role was portrayed in the movies, it has been an honor playing the role in such an amazing play," he said.

Revilla echoed Cabrera: "It's going to be exciting. It's a play that we can all relate to as teenagers."

For a show that is all about dancing, the club turned to Mount Carmel School 2005 AlumKnight Emmanuel Borja, who was a choreographer for dance troupes at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Borja has been working with the cast for months now, teaching them choreography for key dance numbers in the show.

The Theatre Club's produc-

tion of *Footloose* will run at 7pm each night on Jan. 24 and 25 at Fiesta Resort and Spa's Hibiscus Hall. Admission is \$5.

This production is presented through a special arrangement with R&H Theatricals, www.rnh.com. For more information, call 234-6184 or email galvin.deleonguerrero@gmail.com.

Footloose is based on the 1984 film of the same name starring Kevin Bacon, Lori Singer, Dianne Wiest, and John Lithgow and directed by Herbert Ross. The show was adapted for the stage by the movie's screenwriter and Oscar winner Dean Pitchford and Walter Bobbie for a Broadway opening in the summer of 1998. The show features music by Tom Snow, lyrics by Dean Pitchford, and additional music by Eric Carmen, Sammy Hagar, Kenny Loggins, and Jim Steinman. *Footloose* recently regained popularity with the release of the 2011 film remake starring Kenny Wormald, Julianne Hough, Andie MacDowell, and Dennis Quaid and directed by Craig Brewer.

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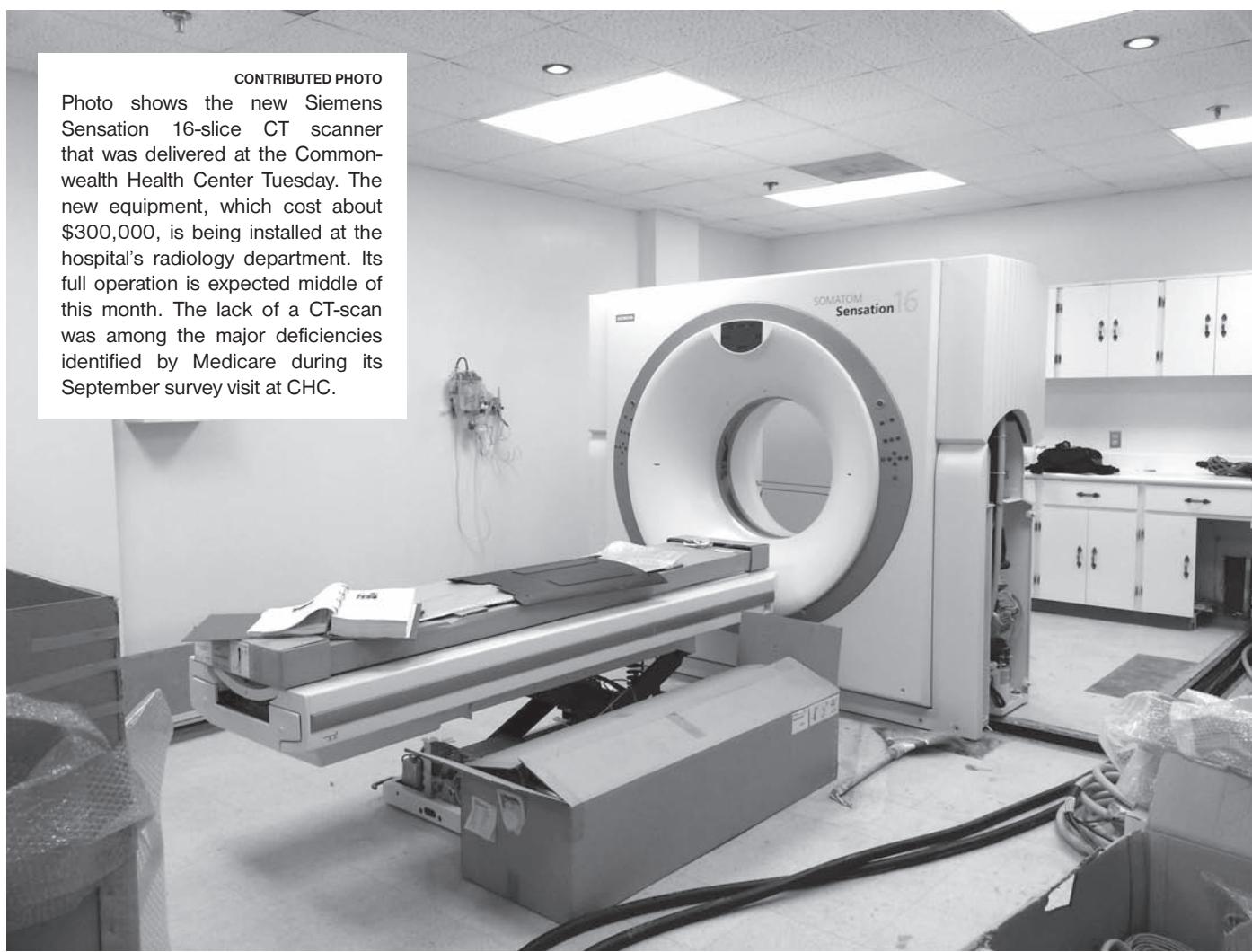
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Hospital finally gets new CT scanner

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Photo shows the new Siemens Sensation 16-slice CT scanner that was delivered at the Commonwealth Health Center Tuesday. The new equipment, which cost about \$300,000, is being installed at the hospital's radiology department. Its full operation is expected middle of this month. The lack of a CT-scan was among the major deficiencies identified by Medicare during its September survey visit at CHC.



By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commonwealth Health Center patients who need X-ray tests or CT scans will no longer be referred to off-island facilities after the health corporation finally received last Tuesday a brand new CT scan.

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Juan N. Babauta and Emergency Preparedness director Warren Villagomez said the new equipment will replace the outdated machine at the hospital.

According to the two officials, the Siemens Sensation 16-slice CT scanner was shipped to Saipan on Jan. 3 and was formally turned over to the

corporation on Jan. 8.

The site where the new machine will be installed is being prepared this week, with installation to follow. Babauta said the installation is expected to be completed within six days and he targets the full operation by middle of the month.

The Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services, he added, is aware of the arrival of the new CT scan and is on top of all the progress and development at the hospital.

CT scan is short for computerized tomography scan. It uses x-rays and a computer to create detailed images of the inside of one's body.

In a survey visit in September last year, Medicare found

out that the hospital's CT scan was malfunctioning and that its portable x-ray unit was broken. These were among the major deficiencies cited by Medicare, which will decide on the hospital's "Condition of Participation" next month.

The new CT scanner costs about \$300,000 and was purchased from Oka Services Inc. The cost will be paid incrementally in three installments, to be sourced from the hospital's revenue and collection.

Babauta earlier disclosed that the corporation will also receive a free UPS battery backup system for the new CT scan unit, as relayed to the corporation by CHC radiology manager Dan Harding.

The hospital also bought new defibrillators in October last year, resulting in the lifting of the immediate jeopardy status earlier slapped on CHC by Medicare.

Although the three immediate jeopardy statuses have already been lifted by CMMS, the public hospital is not yet off the hook as it needs to rectify 13 conditions of participation identified by Medicare in its report. The corporation's "plan of correction" is still being reviewed by CMMS. A visit from the federal agency is expected to validate this submission.

The fate of CHC's certification will be known in February 2013.



GOING PLACES

Saipan resident and former *Saipan Tribune* intern Anita Hofschneider took this photo of President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama watching as Daniel Inouye, Jr., son of U.S. Sen. Daniel Inouye, D-Hawaii, as he is presented with a presidential memorial certificate during a memorial service for the late senator at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu on Sunday, Dec. 23, 2012.

AP/ANITA HOFSCHEIDER



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

To the main man in my life, Marsen M. Siten, happy birthday and many, many more birthdays to come. Cheers to you on your special day! Enjoy and be safe. I love you, my love! From your one and only, Carley Laniyo.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Jan. 11, 2000

No decision yet on transfer of SBDC

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday refused to get involved into the brewing controversy over the closure of the Small Business Development Center from the Northern Marianas College, saying he is not aware of the ongoing FBI probe on its former director. He reiterated his earlier position of ensuring that federal funds granted by the U.S. Small Business Administration to the local program will be kept in the CNMI and whichever agency will handle its operations on the island. "Whatever the outcome of the investigation, I have no knowledge," Mr. Tenorio told reporters yesterday in an interview when sought for comment on the issue.

Teno eyes closer cooperation with new legislature

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio is mum on the move by the Senate to force acting Attorney General Maya B. Kara out of office, but he may have another plan in the offing to give in to pressures by lawmakers. He disclosed that he will meet with members of his Cabinet soon to discuss ways on how to work closely with members of the Legislature and the business community as he pledged at the inaugural session Monday. "We have to find a way to continue to exchange communications that need to be done in order for us to improve the [laws] we have now," Mr. Tenorio told reporters in an interview yesterday.

Jan. 11, 2001

Fund optimistic Legislature will bail out GHLIP

Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund board Chair Vicente Camacho yesterday said he is still optimistic that the Legislature will be able to bail out the Government's Health Insurance program of its more than \$3 million debt. Mr. Camacho said he will meet with the House Committee on Health and Welfare to reiterate the financial assistance that they need to settle the debt with Honolulu-based Straub Clinic & Hospital and Queens Medical Center. The two health providers have been seeking payment from the NMIRF which handles the health insurance since last year. However, cash-strapped GHLI has not been able to settle its debt. "It is still our priority to settle the debt so we will meet with the House Committee to finally resolve this," said Mr. Camacho.

MVA seeks more funds from CIP

As part of its priority program for this fiscal year, the Marianas Visitors Authority will ask the Legislature to include the development of tourist sites in the list of Capital Improvement Projects, which the administration will undertake. MVA Board Chair Dave M. Sablan said he will ask the legislative leaders to provide the needed \$8 million funding so that the tourism agency can begin planning for the improvement of tourist sites this year. "We need new tourist attractions to sell the islands and we cannot afford to sit back and wait for the visitors to come here," said Mr. Sablan. Improvement of tourist sites cover the three islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

Jan. 11, 2002

NMI awarded \$91K in food, shelter funds

The US government chose the Northern Marianas to receive \$91,715 in federal funds to supplement the Commonwealth's food and shelter programs. The selection was made by a National Board that is chaired by the Federal Emergency Management Administration and consists of representatives from The Salvation Army; American Red Cross; United Jewish Communities; Catholic Charities, USA; National Council of the Churches of Christ in the US; and the United Way of America, which will provide the administrative staff and function as fiscal agent. The Board was charged to distribute funds appropriated by Congress to help expand the capacity of food and shelter programs in high-need areas around the country.

Teno bids adieu with anti-terror threat law

As his last official act of business, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio said he will pass into law the bill that would make terroristic threatening a crime. In an interview with reporters yesterday morning, Tenorio said he will use the last day of his office to sign the proposed Terroristic Threatening Act, which he considers important, coming as it does on the heels of another fake bomb threat on Tinian. "With my last day in office, I intend to sign the measure because this is very important. I will sign it sometime this afternoon or tomorrow morning," said Tenorio. The Governor related that, only last Wednesday, another fake bomb threat was received by authorities on Tinian.

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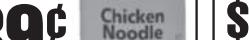
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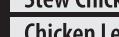
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Saipan Tribune

Volume XXIII, Issue No. 11

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
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EDITORIAL

Keep sights on gun control

The raw grief in Newtown, Conn., over its elementary school massacre is not even one month old, yet there's talk from top Washington Republican circles that the nation's pressing fiscal problems might crowd out comprehensive anti-gun-violence measures for now.

Well, Congress should be able to walk, chew gum, and find the elusive safety latch on America's frightening arsenal of guns.

In the wake of the slaying of 20 first graders and six adults at Sandy Hook Elementary School—and the haunting recounting of the July Colorado theater shooting during court testimony this week—the need for broad-based steps to stem gun violence should remain high atop the national agenda.

Indeed, President Obama vows that measures being put together by Vice President Biden and a working group that includes Philadelphia Police Commissioner Charles Ramsey and other law enforcement experts "is not something that I will be putting off."

That vow acknowledges the danger that the nation too easily could forget the horror of a mass shooting in which 6- and 7-year-olds were, in effect, sacrificed to the National Rifle Association's insistence that high-powered guns are essential to preserving Second Amendment rights.

In addition to second-guessing the likely timing of anti-violence reforms—as Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., did on a Sunday talk show—some gun-rights advocates are questioning the scope of the federal response to Newtown.

But while a freshman Democratic North Dakota congresswoman over the weekend warned against "extreme" measures, the emerging White House strategy looks to be comprehensive, not radical.

There's little doubt that Congress will be asked to reinstate a ban on assault weapons, as well as take steps to diminish a killer's firepower with curbs on large-capacity ammunition clips. The sale or manufacture of dozens of semiautomatic rifle models and military-style handguns also should be outlawed, as they would be under a proposal expected from Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif.

To stop there, though, would be far short of what's needed to address other key factors in mass killings that have occurred with horrifying frequency. So it's encouraging to hear that the Biden group's proposals could be much broader, particularly in their potential to prevent the mentally ill from gaining access to weapons.

In considering measures such as universal background checks for firearms buyers, a national database to track weapons sales, harsh penalties for carrying guns near schools and arming minors, and stronger mental-health safeguards, Biden's task force appears to be well on track.

Also hopeful are reports that the White House might get creative, by working with Wal-Mart and other gun retailers to rally support for reforms that, in turn, could aid sales to law-abiding gun owners.

Along with a welcome groundswell among teachers' union ranks for the sweeping reform that's needed, it just might be possible to maintain momentum—and soon honor those slain first graders' memory by making America safer from guns.

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Fitial's lies in perpetuity

It's was boring listening to Gov. Benigno Fitial tell his life's history as titular head, seemingly at ease regurgitating lies as his last ditch holy grail to avoid impeachment. But his story came with more feet-to-mouth slam dunks presenting grand demagoguery, only to lamely confirm that he can't "fool all the people all of the time."

He looked calm though bewildered during his delivery, perhaps soul-searching, unsuccessfully, how to distinguish fact from fiction, poetry or line, and how to regard the relationship between pseudology—lying as an art—and storytelling.

He should have purchased a machine that can inhibit pseudology, mendacity, and falsehood to domesticate his proclivity for spewing volcanic-like magma of lies. But he was sleek in his usual demeanor, braving more pathological lies with new spins that only he believes. Nice try. But then he's claimed the wisdom corner reserved solely for Leviathan liars and confirmed, time and again, his obvious lack of integrity in spite of his failed public relations stunt.

Fitial intentionally blamed his legal and technical advisers for his decision on the power plant deal. He was hoping for empathy as he unleashed more lies. He tries to shift public perception from negligence to victimhood. But this effort failed flat on its face given the fact that the public has gotten used to his usual antics—shifting responsibility to his Cabinet—to absolve himself from any legal mess. Oxymoronic, pointing his two fingers at others, completely ignoring that he's victimized himself with his usual chain of lies as to even ignore that three of his fingers are pointing right back at him.

You made a conscious decision affixing your signature on the contract, sir. Or are you now giving up ownership of your own conscious decision on the matter?

Against the advice of the former AG that included 71 legal anomalies coupled with similar advice from CUC, you decided to sign the contract anyway. Did you forget that they advised against it while you smiled, hoping to tiptoe through the swampy garden of deceit with "just this one time?" Must we believe you, who consciously signed the deal contrary to advice or your advisers who delivered timely recommendations against it? You did the exact opposite, confirming your complete lack of integrity! Don't you think people have caught up with your arcane and genetically predisposed antics in pseudology?

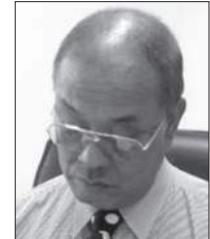
Failed promises, sir

Now let's take a quick glimpse at some of Fitial's recent promises and failure to deliver his now lame or paraplegic "better times."

Two years ago, you promised to lower utility rates from \$.15 to \$.11 per kilowatt-hour. The prevailing rate is now \$.31 per kilowatt-hour. Your failure to find other sources of energy has severely and negatively impacted both consumers and private

By JOHN DELROSARIO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



industry here. They are:

1). Consumers have become the indentured slaves of the utility agency who once were scared when darkness hits but are now more fearful when the lights are turned on at night.

2). Foreign capital has taken an exodus to the tune of \$7 billion, negatively impacting what is now a cataclysmic or disastrous economy. Obviously, you embraced a "do-nothing" attitude singing "que sera, sera." And you still have that gigantic appetite to suffocate generations of our children with your new power plant deal?

Sir, you lied about "better times" while hoping for some measure of comfort in "Let It Be." Sterling performance dragging the livelihood of villagers to subterranean misery! And we thought your miscreant agenda in depravity was done. But you were inebriated by the discovery of power and how easily you could twist the mandates of a government of laws into statist disposition or dictatorship. Please don't tell us you weren't the chief architect of obstruction of justice when the former AG left the island.

You also confirm your inability to learn, since your first day in office six years ago, to own up to your responsibility as titular head. But this despicable and unforgiveable behavioral anomaly begins with the *self!* It would do you good watching the TV ad on quelling family violence where each person, young and old, declares, "Peace begins with me!" In your case, it would have to be, "Integrity begins with me!" How about telling the truth for once, sir?

Demagoguery isn't leadership

Sad how Fitial has conveniently lost what's known in modern management as "true north," celebrating his ascendancy to his post as governor but never taking the time to consider how he got there. Is this why he left the Republicans years ago, formed the Covenant Party, then abandoned it when he did his usual "Daddy's home to stay" or leave again?

In short, he was dangerously wobbly at the base and all for "want of more power" as to trash mindfulness of his role as head of this archipelago. Despicable how easily and cheaply he's trashed the lasting principle of friendship built over a lifetime in favor of diabolical politics.

See FITIAL'S on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Tepid on tech

What's your tech budget for the year? Mine is as close to zero as I can get it this time around. I haven't seen anything I've needed lately. So it's a good time to take a big step back and take a fresh look at the cyber world.

I'm not a total curmudgeon about tech. Heck, I'm a creature of it. My favorite things in the world are airplanes, helicopters, cars, trucks, and recordings of a few favorite music albums. All these things are, of course, fruits of modern technology.

But tech's interaction with humans is creating some interesting results.

For example, my wife and I were in a restaurant and seated next to us was a family of five. Throughout their entire dinner, the clan spoke not a word to each other. The father was engrossed in a tablet computer. The mother was texting on a smart phone. All three children had MP3 music buds in their ears and were adrift in their own bubbles.

Of course, these sorts of examples are too common to even notice nowadays. But that happened to be the day I was penciling out my tech budget for the year, so I was sort of thinking about how much tech I wanted, or didn't want, in my life.

I remember when computers were just glorified calculators. They were office machines. IBM, after all, stands for "International Business Machines."

And, as office machines, they merely helped process mundane data. Most people in the office didn't even think about these machines, much less use them.

Then came the next step: microcomputers. Spreadsheets became popular. And, of course, connectivity became ubiquitous. With the exception of a few very senior old-school guys and a few outliers, anybody who was anybody in a company had a computer.

Computers were more than calculators by this point. They performed analysis. The computer would, in a sense, "make the decision."

The computer's credibility was enhanced by cold precision of its construction. Its otherworldly appearance gave it an almost supernatural authority. Buy two models of the same machine, and they were more alike than identical twins are. There were no human foibles here, no random mutations of biology from the analog world to confront.

And, unlike twins, or any other humans for that matter, computers didn't have moods. They didn't play favorites. They didn't forget stuff. They were, and let's relish this term, virtually perfect.

And yet, still, they were not fully trusted in savvy circles. People at management level understood the old saw GIGO (Garbage In, Garbage Out). They were skeptical of the output unless they understood the inputs and calculations.

Well, those were the old days. But we can forget all about them. The skepticism has melted away, year by year. It's gone now. The computer doesn't just give you an answer. These days, the computer is the answer!

Part of it was pure charm. Tech went from being impersonal, and even unpleasant, to being warm and fuzzy. Smartphones are a good example. These clever little computers are fun to hold, nice to touch, captivating to use, and, for the lonely or the bored, they offer a limitless universe of attention and distractions.

I wonder how many people face each new day touching a com-

puter before they touch another real, live person. Maybe we can get a hint from another realm of tech, namely TV, and the fact that among Americans at least, I am advised that people spend far more time watching the tube than talking to their spouses.

For the first time in history that I'm aware of, many people prefer the interaction of machines to the actual company of other human beings. Well, that's an interesting transformation, to say the least.

If that aversion to humans seems inconceivable, then consider that many people prefer the company of pets to the company of humans. That's so common it doesn't even raise eyebrows anymore, at least in the U.S. mainland. Heck, I remember reading of one multi-millionaire who left her fortune to her dog.

I used to think that high technology would cure cancer, fix paralysis, and perform similar miracles, as the mysteries of science were revealed and conquered. It all seemed so noble and promising in the 1970s. But, since then, the broad market seems to have broken in the other direction, seeking ever more gadgets to serve as virtual cocoons. So my hopes are no longer high, and my wallet is pretty much closed.



By ED STEPHENS

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit [Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com](http://EdStephensJr.com). His column runs every Friday.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Proposed casino bills are against the spirit of Rota Casino Act

Although I understand the need to entice potential investors into our island to help boost our economy, it is my opinion that the proposed casino bills in their current forms and forwarded to me for introduction are not in the best interest of the people of Rota and against the spirit of the Rota Casino Act of 2007.

First, the intent of the proposed House local casino bill seeks to reduce the gambling revenue tax between 10 percent (the percentage approved by the people of Rota pursuant to the Rota Casino Act) and 3 percent.

Second, the proposed House casino bill seeks to reduce the gross gaming revenue for specific promotional costs including but not limited to promotional items or gifts, agent fees, commissions paid,

complimentary chips, and any and all complimentary incentives incurred by the investor.

To dramatically reduce the gambling revenue tax or gross gambling tax is revenue deprived, thus is not in the best interest of the people of Rota.

Third, any changes or amendments to the Rota Casino Act should first be put forth before the people of Rota, either through public hearings or meetings. After all, it was but the electorate and people of Rota who created, designed, and ratified the Rota Casino Act of 2007.

To deprive the people of Rota the right to be heard, and ultimately the right to decide on any change or amendment is totally against

A special day for the Commonwealth

The day was Jan. 9 1978, the official beginning of a new government, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. For those of us who were here on that special day and privileged to have the special and once-in-a-lifetime, opportunity to be a witness to the commencement of a new government, and especially one under the United States flag, it was an unforgettable moment.

The District Government of the Northern Mariana Islands under the U.S. Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands in 1976 became a transitional government named "The Government of the Northern Mariana Islands. Transitional until that special day, which was known for almost three decades as Commonwealth Day. To the

many people who unselfishly worked so hard for so many years to make the Commonwealth dream come true, as well as for myself, it will most likely always be Commonwealth Day.

Although the holiday was changed from Jan. 9, I was disappointed that there was absolutely not a mention nor acknowledgment of that special day from any segment of our community. That is most unfortunate, as it is a day that should always be remembered to commemorate that special beginning of self-government for the people of the CNMI.

Judge David Wiseman

Susupe, Saipan

terest of the NMI? Didn't he fall prey to your smooth and greasy assertions dripping with grease from steak and lobster? It's easy discerning that one of you did the "just this one time" pitch better than the other. You did, sir!

It's diabolically comical how Fitial now declares he's learned the importance of transparency after several terms as speaker of the lower chamber and six years as titular head. When he engineered absolving the administration from paying employer's contribution (totaling over \$327 million in unfunded liability) was the decision his or that of his trusted legal and financial advisers? In short, the Fund is basically on its way off the fiscal cliff next year. What would he do to resolve this mess he's helped bankrupt by avoiding paying the NMI's employer's contribution?

Lubricity is the hallmark of Fitial's administration and when trust is history, what's there to do other than the glorification of failed leadership? Regurgitating the same pile of lies isn't the answer either nor would it shield a pattern of asymmetrical statist decisions favoring his minions. It's time to return the NMI to a government of laws. One grand pathological lie isn't going to absolve his administration's use of arrogance, persistent negligence, and complete failure to improve the lot of our people. Why ask us to watch your parade when it has left the parade ground since 2011? Enough is enough! *No mas! Resign!*

FITAL'S

From Page 10

How grandly he's paid for it too in the decisive and conclusive rebuke of his team last midterm election. Kiss it off, sir! It's history!

He claims "experienced leadership" but failed to recognize and contain significant revenue losses, pile of debts, and persistent deficit spending under his charge. As though this fiscal colossus (budgetary shortfall of over \$250 million) isn't sufficient, he signed a new power plant deal that would have forced generations of our children to annual debts for quarter of a century of not less than \$40,000 per family. Is the denial of posterity's rights to their economic and other freedoms his glowing trophy as titular head? Is this why he's trashed the public trust in recent past hoping for better results? Isn't this desperate behavior what Einstein called insanity?

'Just this one time'

The former AG doesn't know the two Scrooges from Saipan Development LLC. In fact, one of them was Fitial's close friend who worked on his re-election campaign, true? Then who asked the former AG to sign the PPA even with strong opposition and after his legal staff pointed out some 71 legal issues contrary to the in-

the spirit of the Rota Casino Act.

Rep. Teresita A. Santos

Capital Hill, Saipan

Cafeteria parent ban policy

The practice of banning parents in cafeteria should be extended to all schools. The parent ban has already started at William S. Reyes Elementary School for many months now. It allows a child to be independent and responsible for their mess. I've seen parents spoon-feeding their children. Even worse, I see them spoon-feeding themselves! I've even seen parents asking other people's children for untouched leftovers! Are we not ashamed! How do we give our children proper nutrition if it goes to the wrong mouths? How do we teach our children to be more independent as they grow up? We see overcrowded cafeterias as students can't sit because there are more parents than students. However, such ban should be limited. Parents with disabled children or children who may have allergic reactions to certain foods should be allowed to monitor their child. I believe this is one step in the right direction. Now, if we can only have parents enter the school only when the school ends as to not disturb classes!

Vince G. Cabrera

Chalan Piao, Saipan

Writing as an art

Uncle Frank, thank you for pointing out the flaw in our article. We are puzzled for you did not point out our incorrect English usage. We write in the media for the purpose of self-improvement and to get our point across. We don't have to conform to any writing rules. Your criticism is appreciated and we will put your input in consideration.

Writing is an art in which you have to write frequently and one such technique is free writing. There are reasons for the misspelled words or different word meanings in our writing. The main reason is we can't write proper English that is plain and simple. The second reason is to make others aware in our island chain that you don't have to be a good writer to share your opinion in the media.

After asking numerous individuals around our neighborhood about the meaning of upper house and lower house, we are fine using such words for we don't have to conform to any academic rules when writing to the editor. It is better to give than to receive in our life. Uncle Frank, remember our brothers and sisters who have contributed to our island chain.

Segundo Castro

Fresno, Calif.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Breezy during the day. East winds 15 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Breezy during the day. East winds 15 to 25 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 87° ▾ 76°	▲ 87° ▾ 76°	▲ 86° ▾ 76°	▲ 86° ▾ 76°	▲ 86° ▾ 76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲ 85 ▾ 78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲ 84 ▾ 78
Yap	Showers	▲ 86 ▾ 78
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲ 85 ▾ 80
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	▲ 85 ▾ 80
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲ 85 ▾ 80
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▾ 81

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲ 76 ▾ 67
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 37 ▾ 16
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲ 64 ▾ 56
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲ 77 ▾ 69
London	Cloudy	▲ 41 ▾ 36
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 55 ▾ 36
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 84 ▾ 77
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲ 75 ▾ 60
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲ 81 ▾ 69
New York	Showers	▲ 46 ▾ 42
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲ 49 ▾ 36
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 42 ▾ 37
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲ 47 ▾ 34
Rome	Showers	▲ 57 ▾ 39
Salem	Ice	▲ 41 ▾ 30
San Francisco	Sunny	▲ 53 ▾ 40
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲ 36 ▾ 19
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲ 49 ▾ 35
Washington, DC	Showers	▲ 50 ▾ 49

Tides

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	6:46 AM	6:04 PM	Today	5:47 AM	5:31 PM
Saturday	6:46 AM	6:04 PM	Saturday	6:45 AM	6:34 PM
Sunday	6:46 AM	6:05 PM	Sunday	7:38 AM	7:35 PM
Monday	6:47 AM	6:06 PM	Monday	8:27 AM	8:33 PM
Tuesday	6:47 AM	6:06 PM	Tuesday	9:12 AM	9:28 PM

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ISLAND SNAPSHTOS

Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

BUSINESS

Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

SAMUT SARI

Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

TRAVELOGUE

Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan

To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JAN. 7, 2013

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:40am	5:30am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily
UA5074	11:10am	12:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:05am	7:55am	Daily
UA5073	9:50am	10:40am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
DL285	6:35am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7
DL297	4:25pm	7:20pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL286	7:40pm	12:15am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

0Z119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily
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OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

0Z120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily
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SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

0Z608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 6, 7
0Z608	3:30am	6:40am	3

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

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Judiciary holds 5th seminar for freshman lawmakers



The Judiciary and the freshman legislators of 2013.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

On Thursday, Jan. 10, 2013, the Commonwealth Judiciary conducted the fifth "Law and the Freshman Legislator" seminar, a biennial seminar specifically designed for incoming legislators. The half-day program included a condensed course on the Covenant and CNMI Constitution, an overview of the judiciary process, and an opportunity for interactive dialogue between first-time representatives and members of the Judiciary.

Eight of the nine newly elected legislators attended this year's event: representatives-elect Antonio R. Agulto, Anthony T. Benavente, Roman C. Benavente, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Christopher D. Leon Guerrero, John Paul P. Sablan, Mariano Taitano, and Ralph N. Yumul. Richard B. Seman could not attend due to transportation limitations from Rota. Fifty-three legislators have now participated in the program since its inception in 2004 and all have highly recommended that the program continue.

The seminar agenda consisted of four sessions covering: (1) the Covenant, the United States Constitution, and the NMI Constitution; (2) the role of the courts; (3) statutory interpretation; and (4) the basics of legal research. Presenters included Chief Justice Alejandro C. Castro, Associate Justice John A. Manglona, Associate Judge David A. Wiseman, Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo, Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona of the U.S. District Court for the NMI, and Heather L. Kennedy, executive director of the Commonwealth Law Revision Commission.

The Northern Mariana Islands Historic Society sponsored a roundtable discussion and luncheon held after the formal presentations. This provided the new legislators with the opportunity to interact in a question-and-answer dialogue with the justices and judges. (NMI Judiciary)

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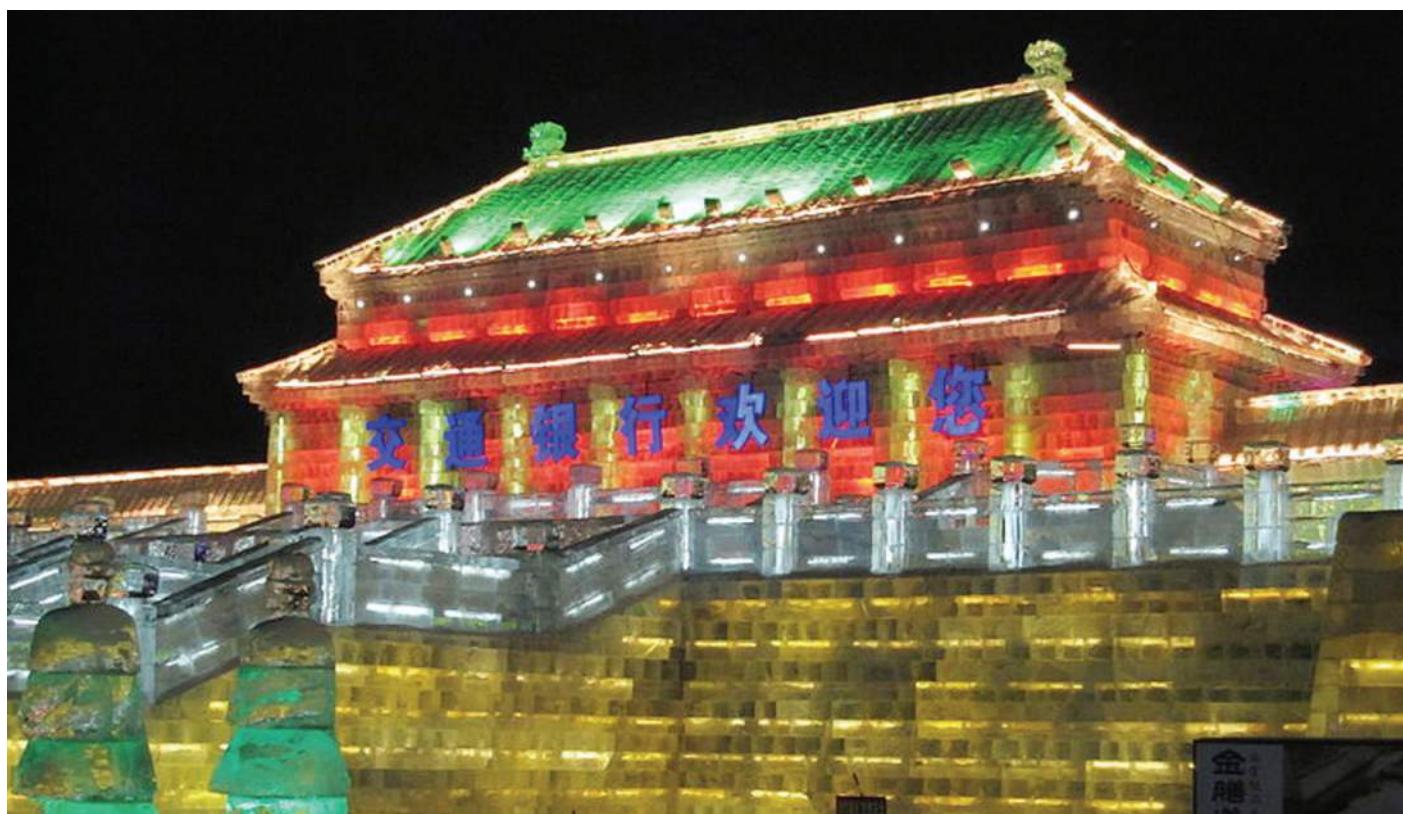
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China's Imperial Palace is recreated in ice. Inset shows the author.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Harbin International Ice and Snow Show

By JAIME R. VERGARA
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Not too long ago, a colleague in Washington State posted a PowerPoint presentation of some ice sculptures as part of her mission to bring interesting and significant visuals to her friends' lives. She did not, however, identify where they were from, and upon our query, she discovered they were part of the Ice and Snow festival in Harbin of *Dong Bei* (northeast China).

OK. Let's get the Atlas out. *Dong Bei*, northeast China that looks like the head of a chicken as Xizang (Tibet) holds the hind quarters, Xinjiang the tail feathers, and Hainan, the egg, was formerly called Manchuria of the Manchus of the last royal house of China, the Qings. Its native name Nipponized was *Manchukuo*, revived by expansionist Japan when it occupied the territory before WWII, it is divided into Inner and Outer Manchuria.

Tsarist Russia earlier expanded its frontiers and foisted sovereign rule over the Outer north across the Amur, now including the naval port of Vladivostok. The dividing Amur River, aka Heihe (Hei river) from where the northernmost province of China's *Dong Bei*, Heilongjiang, derives its name (*long* means dragon, and rivers are often depicted as a mythical dragon, one of China's primal symbols), is where one can visit Chinese-speaking Russians, and Russian-speaking Chinese!

Harbin was China Eastern Railway workers' camp for the Trans-Siberian train. It later became a favored destination of White Russians evading the socialist clutches of the new Bear after the 1918 Bolshevik Revolution. Harbin (in Manchu, the "place where one dry fish nets," with its old rail downtown once dubbed "the Moscow of the East") is centrally situated in *Dong Bei*, though it is now in the southern part of Heilongjiang province. The provinces of Jilin (where Yanbian Autonomous Region—Korea in China—sits east of North Korea) and Liaoning in the Liaodong peninsula (where we currently reside) in the old Mukden, now

known as Shenyang, complete the region of *Dong Bei*.

Russia had designs on Manchuria at one time, wanting to expand its naval force to the year-round warm waters of Port Arthur, as compared to Vladivostok's often frozen environs that makes port facilities operational only during the summer months. Japan foiled that plan when its navy was aided by *kamikaze* on the superior Russian navy in 1904-05.

Interested readers can google Manchuria at the turn of the 20th century for the historical strands of the last gasps of the Qings, the anti-Christian inspired Boxer Rebellion, and the rapacious international interventionists (Japan, Russia, Germany, France, and, yes, the United States) who drooled over carving out spheres of influence in the collapsing Empire of the Qings.

To the ice and snow. Officially launched on the 5th of January, Harbin actually begins carving ice sculptures as soon as the river water freezes. By *Dong Bei*'s own weather forecast of two weeks spring, two months summer, two days autumn, and the rest winter, that could be any day the weather thermometer hits below zero centigrade!

The monthlong ice and snow festival rivals those of other tourist destinations like Norway's Ski Festival, Canada's Quebec City Winter Carnival, and Japan's Sapporo Snow Festival. (We were a couple of days late a decade ago when

we hit a newly thawed Sapporo, and we lived in Saskatchewan in the late '70s, so Quebec was not much of a winter attraction. Norway? Our legs went two different directions the last time we attached them to skies downhill and flat prairie. We'll pass.) Harbin, however, in July is a songfest, and 'Hapi days' in August (Harbin beerfest. But January is all ice.

The Ice and Snow Festival is really more ice than snow. Precipitation is very limited as the cold is mostly dry but the carving of structures from the freeze has come to grab and grip artists' imagination worldwide. An internationally

See HARBIN on Next Page

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CUC sets two power outages tomorrow

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has scheduled a power interruption on Saturday, Jan. 12, 2013, from 8:30am to 12:30pm to replace a rotting power line on Dandan road directly in front of the Dandan Elementary School.

Another crew will replace a rotted power pole in the upper Dandan Homestead area near

Gatbo Ave. Water services may be effected in the area during the power interruption; however, all services should be restored after the powers is re-energized.

Areas affected include Kiya 1 (2nd partial) from the former San Vicente Round House south on Dandan Road to the Flame Tree Road intersection and east toward the Hawaiian Rock Quar-

ry to the Obyan areas.

Later that same day, there will be a power interruption from 3:30pm to 4:15pm. The purpose of the interruption is to de-energize the primary lines to allow the CUC line crew to safely perform system maintenance by replacing deteriorated pole hardware on As Perdido near Dabao Tire Shop.

Another crew will connect a recently replaced air break switch on Chalan Msgr. Martinez Rd. near the Dandan Shell Gas Station. The new switch will provide the line crew the added ability to isolate problematic areas of the electrical distribution circuit and minimize inconvenience to customers. Water services may be

effected in the area during the power interruption; however, all services should be restored after the powers is re-energized.

Areas affected are Kiya 2 (first partial) Chalan Msgr., Martinez Rd. from former Movie Station south to Koblerville Mobil gas station to include Tottoville, Guangdong Hardware, Chalan Tun Thomas P. Sablan Rd., San Antonio area, Aplok Dr., Bayak Dr., Faha PI., Chalan Tun Joaquin

Doi, partial of Chalan Kanoa (Casilda St. south to Doctor Torres Dr.) and to include William S. Reyes Elementary School. Chalan Piao traffic light, and CUC Aguigan Treatment Plant, including the As Lito water wells, will be affected.

Because of the scale of the work that will be performed, travelers are asked to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the affected areas. (CUC)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Friends of the Arts sets more auditions

The Friends of the Arts will be presenting Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* on Feb. 14, 15, and 16, 2013. Interested performers and would be performers are invited to try out. A second opportunity for auditions will be held at the Dolphin Theater in Marianas High School this Saturday, Jan. 12, 2013, from 3pm to 5pm. (PR)

Active Employee members of Fund sets meeting

The second meeting of the non-retired members of the NMI Retirement Fund Defined Benefits Plan, who have submitted applications for withdrawal from the Fund, will be held on Saturday, Jan. 12 at 3pm at the American Memorial Park Theater.

The Active Members United Committee will present the position statement that will be submitted to the U.S. District Court by AMU, and additional important actions related to the

submission of the statement and upcoming hearings that will require the participation of the non-retired members of the Fund will also be discussed at the meeting.

For further information you may contact Mark Staal via email at staalbird7@gmail.com or Robert Hunter at telephone 789-1662 or via email at roberthunter@gmail.com. (PR)

Survivors, caregivers support meeting

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the next Commonwealth Cancer Association's monthly support meeting scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 17, 2013, at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room starting at 5:30pm. This month's support meeting guest speaker will be Nola Hix, MMAC subcommittee survivors' chairperson. Her presentation will focus on MMAC 2013. To RSVP or for more information, call the CCA at 682-0050 or email at

ccamaranas@gmail.com. (PR)

Saipan municipal council sets meeting

The 12th Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council will hold an organizational session on Jan. 14, 2013, at 9:30am at the Municipal Council chambers in Chalan Kanoa. For more information, contact the Municipal Council office at 664-2700/2701. (PR)

Air Force training on Farallon de Medinilla

The U.S. Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla from Jan. 9 to 11, from 9am to 4:30pm. The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated. The general location of the training on the island of Far-

allon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. (PR)

CCA sets general membership meeting

All friends, volunteers, partners, and clients of the Commonwealth Cancer Association and all members of the community are invited to the general membership meeting on Thursday, Jan. 24, 2013, at 5:30pm at

CCA's Conference Room in Guarlo Rai.

The agenda will include the 2012 annual report of the president and treasurer, election of four CCA board members, and an opportunity for public comments. Nominations for board members will be accepted on the floor. For more information, contact CCA at 682-0050 or email ccamaranas@gmail.com. (PR)

HARBIN

From Page 14

represented group has been sawing and chipping on the ice ever since the festival began mid-'60s, placed on hold during the Cultural Revolution, then revived in mid-'80s until today's 29th sculpting. This year's rendering, along with the traditional copies of imagined Disney palaces, includes Angkor Wat's shadows and any spired structure from around the world, from Moscow to Timbuktu!

If the sculpting now challenges artists in the same way as sand castles and other grainy structures are emerging as a beach art form on Saipan and elsewhere, the carving of the ice is emerging as a form of expressive art.

This is not just a result of the new commercial ethos of Harbin. In the Kogoryo era of which Yanbian is a remnant, there was the tradition of carving out ice in people's homes in the dark of the winter to equip lanterns in them that made the surroundings glow in the dark from the refraction. On a Lunar New Year's eve train from Shenyang to Tu-

men, Jilin two years ago, we saw many instances of ice lanterns on display outside residential dwellings and community nodes.

The Harbin ice festival (lots of photos in the Internet) reflects these two traditions; the contemporary one that sculpts the ice for today's commercial and entertainment requirements, and also the ice lantern tradition that lingers in the practical reason that on dark winter nights, the wayfarers on the road, wherever they are heading, can use the assistance of a well-lit lantern.

Harbin's ice, in the Shaolin Park and Songhuajiang, pedestrian-only Zhongyang Dajie and Stalin Park, or the miniature sculpture in front of the train station, are what those in the southern clime come to experience in the winter. When in China (Century Travel is still mulling earlier plans for a direct Saipan-Shenyang connection), particularly those from tropical isles, one would not want missing the Harbin ice!

Jaime Vergara, formerly a regular contributor in the Opinion section, is an adjunct foreign correspondent in China for Saipan Tribune.

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PIC hosts Russian-style Christmas celebration



Garbed in traditional Russian costumes, celebrities Konstantin Pospelov and Vilatii Rogozin, seated front, join Pacific Islands Club staff for a group shot before the start of Monday night's Orthodox Christmas event held at the hotel's Seaside Grill.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Local and visiting Russians gathered at Pacific Islands Club's Seaside Grill on Jan. 7 for a night of elaborate celebra-

tion as they commemorated Orthodox Christmas in accordance with the Julian calendar.

The venue was transformed into a Ukrainian village, with heaps of garden flowers and plants where hotel staff wearing

traditional Russian costumes served 272 guests with a bounteous dinner buffet that included the classic Borsch soup.

Anna Yushkova, PIC Russian sales and marketing manager for Russian market, said that

Orthodox Christmas is one of the most important and joyful holidays among Russian Orthodox faithful, which was banned in the country after the 1917 Revolution for 75 years.

Nowadays, she said, Christmas is openly observed and celebrated in a very festive way with big and joyful gatherings among family members and friends.

"Even while on vacation, people follow the tradition and celebrate this important and merry holiday," said Yushkova, prompting one of CNMI's leading hotels that accommodate Russian travelers to organize a special event for their guests.

To add joy to the festivities, PIC invited anew two popular Russian celebrities to host the party. Konstantin Pospelov and Vilatii Rogozin performed various fun activities such as dancing.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Popular Russian celebrity Vilatii Rogozin entertains his audience.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
A boy and girl dance to the music during the festivities.

ing, singing, and various games for both adults and children.

Both personalities also led the raffle draw that gave away exciting prizes such as gift certificates donated by local travel operators, hotels, restaurants, shopping centers, and car rental companies.

Yushkova said that the Orthodox Christmas party also served as a fundraising event to support the Children's Hospital in Vlad-

ivostok City, which houses over a hundred orphans.

She said all the guests and staff enjoyed the celebration of the Orthodox Christmas and are looking forward to the next big holiday, the Russian-style New Year, slated for Jan. 13 at the Magellan Restaurant.

Yushkova added that Sunday's event promises to be another enjoyable and successful party for Russian locals and tourists.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Anna Yushkova, Pacific Islands Club sales and marketing manager for Russian market, and Russian marketing assistant Anastasia Panchenko, join former hotel staffer Elitza Stoilova and husband Oleg Tchernychenko for a souvenir photo.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Foeten Commercial Building, Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BIDS DPW13-IFB-002

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids proposal for the **Construction of Coastal Road Improvement, Sadog Tasi, Saipan**, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after December 28, 2012 at the Department of Public Works, Technical Services Division, 1353 Medinilla Avenue-Capitol Hill, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$150.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on January 08, 2013 at 09:00 a.m. local time at the Project Site, Coastal Drive, Sadog Tasi Area, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on January 16, 2013 to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director, Technical Services Division**, DPW Bldg. #1353 Medinilla Avenue, or fax to (670) 234-3547.

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW13-IFB-002"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time January, 22, 2013. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time January 22, 2013, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@picom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than January 22, 2013, and must be received no later than January 31, 2013. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 9:30 a.m. local time, February 04, 2012. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on January 25, 2013.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

- A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Island, and
- Under penalty of perjury, a certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

- 1) Cash
- 2) US Government Securities
- 3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
- 4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
- 5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is Ninety (90) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at One Hundred Dollars (US \$100.00) per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Business

Boeing defends Dreamliner, safety questions remain

By JOSHUA FREED

AP BUSINESS WRITER

Boeing's 787 is supposed to revolutionize air travel. It just needs to get out of its own way first.

The new plane is undoubtedly Boeing's most visible. It's built from composites instead of aluminum and comes with the promise of the most comfortable ride in the sky. At \$200 million each, 787s are an important part of Boeing's future, even

though it will be a while before it makes money on them.

But this sophisticated piece of transportation wizardry hasn't been behaving as designed. Just this week one caught fire, and another suffered a fuel leak. The 787 was delayed for three years, so Boeing's investors and customers notice each time one has a problem. Boeing asserts such growing pains are typical for new models.

The 787's chief engineer

Facing backlash, AIG won't join lawsuit against the US

NEW YORK (AP)—Afraid of looking like a world-class ingrate, AIG on Wednesday decided against suing the federal government over the \$182 billion bailout that saved the giant insurance company from collapse.

American International Group Inc. was put in the awkward position of having to consider joining a lawsuit brought against Uncle Sam by its former CEO, Maurice "Hank" Greenberg.

The suit claims that the terms of the taxpayer-funded bailout were too onerous. The government received a huge stake in AIG when it bailed the company out at the height of the 2008 financial crisis. AIG has since paid all the money back and notes that the government made a profit of \$22.7 billion.

The timing could hardly have been worse for AIG. The company is in the midst of a "Thank You, America" ad campaign to

show its gratitude for being rescued from the brink of collapse.

The prospect of the insurer joining the lawsuit had already triggered outrage. A congressman from Vermont issued a statement telling AIG: "Don't even think about it." Comedian Andy Borowitz likened the insurer to somebody suing a fireman for ripping a designer jacket after rescuing them from a burning building.

AIG, which was legally obligated to consider joining the lawsuit, demurred. The company said it would not join Greenberg's lawsuit and wouldn't permit Greenberg to pursue his claims in AIG's name.

"The majority of directors decided that the reputational damage was greater than the possibility on a long-shot lawsuit," said John Coffee, a professor at Columbia Law School who specializes in corporate and securities law.

Obama to tap budget expert Jack Lew to lead Treasury

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama will nominate White House chief of staff Jack Lew to be his second-term Secretary of the Treasury, turning to one of Washington's most knowledgeable budget experts to manage prickly fiscal negotiations with Congress and steer the still-shaky national economy.



Lew

Lew, 57, would bring to Treasury a mastery of federal budget mechanics, honed during two stints as director of the Office of Management and Budget. While running OMB during the Clinton administration, Lew helped negotiate a balanced budget agreement with Congress, something that has eluded Washington ever since.

Lew's budget background could help shape the Obama administration's strategy in talks with congressional Republicans over the federal debt ceiling. GOP lawmakers are expected to demand deep budget cuts as the price for agreeing to raise the debt limit, which is expected to be reached sometime in February.

A day ahead of the formal announcement, White House Press Secretary Jay Carney praised the expected nominee: "Over the past more than quarter of a century, Jack Lew has

said Wednesday that he has "extreme confidence" in the Dreamliner—Boeing's nickname for the plane—even as federal investigators try to determine the cause of the fire on board an empty, parked Japan Airlines plane on Monday in Boston. Officials have said one of the plane's lithium ion batteries burned.

The 787 is the first Boeing plane to use lithium ion batteries, which charge faster and can be molded to space-saving shapes compared to other airplane batteries. The liquid inside them is flammable, putting the battery at more risk for a fire than previous airplane batteries, the Federal Aviation Administration has found.

Incidents with Boeing 787

Boeing's civilian flagship is an ultra-modern jet built mostly of carbon and epoxy composites instead of aluminum sheeting. It struggled through more than three years of development delays and now a recent series of troubling technical problems.

1 2010 In-flight fire in avionics bay

2 November 2012 Fuel leaks

3 Jan. 7 Fire caused by batteries

4 Jan. 8 Unexplained fuel leak

Details of problems

1. Fire halts test flights for six weeks, forces six-month delay in 787's entry into service

Finding: Traced to debris in electrical panel

2. Leaks occur involving two 787s operated by foreign airlines, including Japan Airlines

Finding: Leaks traced to improper assembly of fuel line couplings; repairs completed

3. A 787 just arrived at Boston from Japan suffers fire at gate, near its auxiliary power unit

Finding: Possibly started by over-charging of lithium ion batteries, part of jet's new design

4. Leak on taxiway forces return of another 787 to Boston terminal

Finding: Not yet determined

Source: Reuters, AP, The Seattle Times, Los Angeles Times, Chicago Tribune, Boeing, Flight International



787 power system uses five times as much electricity as similar-sized jets

Graphic: Robert Dorrell © 2013 MCT

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION FOR BID
IFB13-OHS-034-EOC**

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: JANUARY 24, 2013 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"CONSTRUCTION OF FENCING FOR THE CNMI EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER"

COPIES OF THE ITB PACKAGE MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWER BASE DRIVE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A MANDATORY SITE VISIT WILL TAKE PLACE ON JANUARY 14, 2013 AT 9:30 A.M. ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO MR. CARL DELA CRUZ, OHS PROCUREMENT OFFICER BY E-MAIL TO ohs.delacruz@gmail.com NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, JANUARY 15, 2013.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ MARVIN K. SEMAN
SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR HOMELAND SECURITY

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLON
DIRECTOR, P&S

LAND ASSIGNMENT

- LAND AND BUILDING ASSIGNMENT: WITH POKER BUSINESS AND FORMER PIC LAUNDRY. LAND AREA: 757 SQ.M. LOCATED AT SAN ANTONIO ACROSS PAKPAK BEACH, NEAR PIC HOTEL AND PIC STAFF BARRACKS
- LAND ASSIGNMENT: CONSIST OF 2 LOTS (LAND A) 737 SQ.M. • LAND (B) 779 SQ.M. LAND AND BUILDING ASSIGNMENT: WITH HOUSE AND WAREHOUSE FROMERLY ASIA PACIFIC CORP. LAND AREA: 683 SQ.M. LOCATED ACROSS 13TH FISHERMAN MONUMENT AND NEXT TO MARAIANAS EYE INSTITUTE
- LAND AND BUILDING ASSIGNMENT: CONSIST OF 2 LOTS WITH 4 COMMERCIAL UNIT, FORMERLY NIKO LAUNDRY AND NIKO MARKET AND 3 RESIDENTIAL UNITS. LAND AREA: LAND (A) 1124 SQ.M. LAND (B) 1111 SQ.M. LOCATED AT SAN ROQUE BEFORE PALMS RESORT AND FORMER LA FIESTA
- LAND AND HOUSE ASSIGNMENT: LAND AREA: 5,000 SQ. M LOCATED AT DANDAN NEAR DANDAN GOLF RANGE

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL NIKO CONSULTANT, INC. OR
EMER AT 233-0234 OR 287-0693

After Monday's fire, the big question for Boeing will be whether the issue is a manufacturing defect, which can be fixed relatively cheaply, or a design flaw, which might require expensive redesign and rework on existing planes, said Citi analyst Jason Gursky.

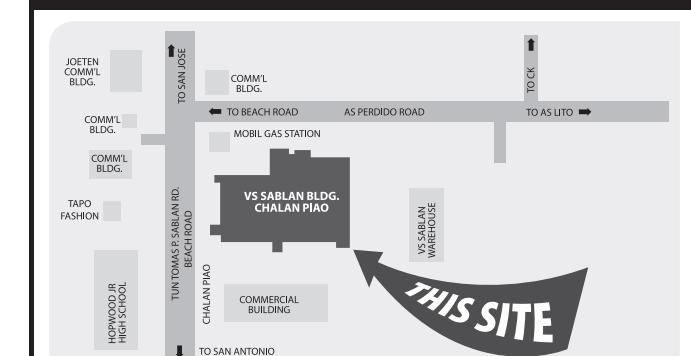
Boeing has delivered 50 of the 787s, starting in late 2011. It has almost 800 more on order. To get through the backlog, Boeing is ramping up production to build 10 787s per month in Washington state and South Carolina by the end of 2013. By comparison, it cranks out more than one 737 every day. The 737

is Boeing's best-seller, and the company has been building the smaller plane for decades.

In November, Boeing said it had begun making five 787s per month. But if any major manufacturing changes are needed to fix the electrical problems, the company could fall further behind in deliveries.

New planes like the 787 take years—and hundreds of millions of dollars—to develop. The roots of the 787 go back to 2003. Boeing has not said how much the research cost. It has estimated it will need to deliver 1,100 of them to break even by some accounting measures.

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Nation

Biden pledges urgent Obama action on gun control

WASHINGTON (AP)—Vice President Joe Biden vowed urgent action against gun violence in America Wednesday, pledging steps by the Obama administration that he said could “take thousands of people out of harm’s way” and improve the safety of millions more.

But a day ahead of a meeting with the National Rifle Associa-

tion, which has sunk past gun control efforts and is opposing any new ones, Biden signaled that the administration is mindful of political realities that could imperil sweeping gun control legislation, and is willing to settle for something less. He said the administration is considering its own executive action as well as measures by Congress, but he

didn’t offer specifics.

“I want to make it clear that we are not going to get caught up in the notion that unless we can do everything, we’re going to do nothing,” Biden told an array of gun control advocates, crime victims and others at the White House. “It’s critically important we act.”

Shortly after last month’s

slaughter of schoolchildren at Newtown, Conn., President Barack Obama tasked Biden with heading a commission to come up with recommendations on gun policy by the end of this month. Obama supports steps including reinstating a ban on assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines and closing loopholes that allow many gun buyers to avoid background checks.

The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence says that some 40 percent of gun sales are made without background

checks, such as at gun shows and over the Internet.

The tragedy in Newtown, in which 20 young children and six adults were gunned down by a man with a military-style semi-automatic rifle, has prodded the administration to act. Obama had remained largely silent on gun control after the 2011 shootings in Tucson, Ariz., that killed six people and wounded 12 others including then-Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, and the Colorado movie theater killing of a dozen people and wounding of many more last July.

Connecticut is moving cautiously on gun control, but Gov. Andrew Cuomo in neighboring New York proposed a wide-ranging package of restrictions on Wednesday. He called for loopholes to be closed in a New York ban on assault weapons and ammunition magazines that carry more than 10 bullets. The Democrat also wants to require holders of handgun licenses to undergo follow-ups to make sure they are still qualified to possess a weapon, and he is calling for increased sentences for certain gun crimes.



Vice President Joe Biden, with Attorney General Eric Holder at left, speaks during a meeting with victims' groups and gun safety organizations in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building on the White House complex in Washington, Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2013.

Winter storm batters Mideast, 8 dead

AMMAN, Jordan (AP)—The fiercest winter storm to hit the Mideast in years brought a rare foot of snow to Jordan on Wednesday, caused fatal accidents in Lebanon and the West Bank, and disrupted traffic on the Suez Canal in Egypt. At least eight people died across the region.

In Lebanon, the Red Cross said storm-related accidents killed six people over the past two days. Several drowned after slipping into rivers from flooded roads, one person froze to death and another died after his car went off a slippery road, according to George Kettaneh, Operations Director for the Lebanese Red Cross.

In the West Bank town of Ramallah, a Palestinian official said two West Bank women drowned after their car was caught in a flash flood on Tuesday. Nablus Deputy Governor Annan Atirah said the women abandoned their vehicle after it got stuck on a flooded road, and their bodies were apparently swept away by surging waters. Their driver was hospitalized in critical condition.

In the Gaza Strip, civil defense spokesman Mohammed al-Haj Yousef said storms cut electricity to thousands of Palestinian homes and rescuers were sent to evacuate dozens of people.

Parts of Israel were bracing for snow a day after the military was forced to send helicopters and rubber dinghies to rescue residents stranded by floodwaters. In Jerusalem, streets were mostly empty as light snow began to stick Wednesday night. School was canceled for the next day because of the weather, which Israeli meteorologists said was the stormiest in a decade.

The unusual weather over the past few days hit vulnerable Syrian refugees living in tent camps very hard, particularly some 50,000 sheltering in the Zaatari camp in Jordan's northern desert. Torrential rains over four days have flooded some 200 tents and forced women and infants to evacuate in temperatures that dipped below freezing at night, whipping wind and lashing rain.

“It’s been freezing cold and

constant rain for the past four days,” lamented Ahmad Tobar, 44, who evacuated his tent when its shafts submerged in flood water in Zaatari. A camp spokesman said that by Wednesday, some 1,500 refugees had been displaced within the camp and were now living in mobile homes normally used for schools.

Weather officials said winds exceeded 45 miles (70 kilometers) per hour and the rain left two feet (70 centimeters) of water on the streets. The storm dumped at least a foot of snow on many parts of Jordan and was accompanied by lashing wind, lightning and thunder. It shut schools, stranded motorists and delayed international flights, Jordanian weatherman Mohammed Samawi said. The unusually heavy snowfall blocked streets in the capital Amman and isolated remote villages, prompting warnings from authorities for people to stay home as snow plows tried to reopen clogged roads. It forced at least 400 families to evacuate their homes and move to government shelters overnight.

The storm dumped at least a foot of snow on many parts of Jordan and was accompanied by lashing wind, lightning and thunder. It shut schools, stranded motorists and delayed international flights, Jordanian weatherman Mohammed Samawi said. The unusually heavy snowfall blocked streets in the capital Amman and isolated remote villages, prompting warnings from authorities for people to stay home as snow plows tried to reopen clogged roads. It forced at least 400 families to evacuate their homes and move to government shelters overnight.

Gun control advocates and their allies in the state General Assembly want to pass new restrictions on weapons while passions are still high over the Sandy Hook Elementary shooting rampage Dec. 14 that left 20 children and six women dead. But they are bracing for strong opposition.

Gun owners have packed statehouse hearings in recent years to oppose measures that would tighten the state's gun laws. And gun manufacturers such as Colt Manufacturing Co., which traces its history to a Hartford factory that Samuel Colt opened in 1855, have threatened in the past to leave Connecticut, taking hundreds of jobs with them, if certain requirements became law.

“There are people who have gun manufacturers in their town who are truly worried about constituents' jobs,” Gallo said. “We expect problems

ACROSS THE NATION

NYC crane collapses at construction site; 7 hurt

NEW YORK (AP)—With the popping of cables and the snapping of metal, a 200-foot crane collapsed onto a building under construction near the East River waterfront Wednesday, injuring seven people, three of whom needed to be extricated from underneath the fallen machinery. The red crane toppled around 2:30 p.m., sprawling across the metal scaffolding and wood planking that made up the first floor skeleton of a residential building in the New York City borough of Queens behind a big neon “Pepsi Cola” sign, a local landmark. Workers putting up the second floor framework scrambled to get out of the way. “Once that snap came, that was it,” said Russell Roberson, 32, of Brooklyn. “I just heard guys yelling, ‘Run, run!’”

Christie: Relationship with NJ Senate pres ‘fine’

BELMAR, N.J. (AP)—New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and state Senate President Steve Sweeney’s political Facebook status would be “in a relationship”—but maybe trying to work some things out. Earlier this week, Sweeney had said Christie “prayed” for a hurricane that would

bring the state jobs—a remark he quickly apologized for. Christie, speaking at a news conference Wednesday to mark the start of reconstruction of Belmar’s Superstorm Sandy-damaged boardwalk, was asked how he and Sweeney are getting along. “I never thought I’d be asked what the status of my relationship with the senate president is,” Christie quipped. “I love him, but our love is strained,” he added as the crowd laughed.

Mother of serial killer Ted Bundy dies in Wash.

TACOMA, Wash. (AP)—Louise Bundy, who was a staunch defender of her serial killer son, Ted Bundy, before he made a series of death-row confessions, has died. She was 88. She died last month in her hometown of Tacoma after a long illness, The News Tribune newspaper reported Wednesday. Her death was confirmed to The Associated Press by the Rev. Melvin Woodworth, pastor of Tacoma’s First United Methodist Church, which she attended from 1951 until a few years ago, when her health prevented her. In the mid-1970s, Louise Bundy was a married mother of five working as a secretary at the University of Puget Sound when authorities across the nation began to accuse her eldest son in a series of gruesome killings.

Asia

Taiwanese linguist races to save dying language

DAKANUA, Taiwan (AP)—Her eyes lit bright with concentration, Taiwanese linguist Sung Li-may leans in expectantly as one of the planet's last 10 speakers of the Kanakanavu language shares his hopes for the future.

"I am already very old," says 80-year-old Mu'u Ka'angena, a leathery faced man with a tough, sinewy body and deeply veined hands. A light rain falls onto the thatched roof of the communal bamboo hut, and smoke from a dying fire drifts lazily up the walls, wafting over deer antlers, boar jawbones and ceremonial swords that decorate the interior like trophies from a forgotten time.

"Every day I think: Can our language be passed down to the next generation? It is the deepest wish in my heart that it can be."

Kanakanavu, Sung says, has a lot more going for it than just its intrinsic value. It belongs to the same language family that experts believe spread from Taiwan 4,000 years ago, giving birth to languages spoken today by 400 million people in an arc extending from Easter Island off South America to the African island of Madagascar.

"Taiwan is where it all starts," says archaeologist Peter Bellwood, who with linguist Robert Blust developed the now widely accepted theory that people from Taiwan leveraged superior navigation skills to spread their Austronesian language far and wide. At least four of Taiwan's 14 government-recognized aboriginal languages are still spo-



In this photo taken Saturday, Dec. 8, 2012, seventy eight-year-old Angai Kamunuana, left, shares a moment with Taiwan linguist Sung Li-may in his aboriginal Kanakanavu mountain village of Dakanua, southern Taiwan.

ken by thousands of people, but a race is on to save the others from extinction. The youngest good speaker of Kanakanavu, also known as Southern Tsou, is 60, and the next youngest, 73.

"To survive a language has to be spoken," Sung said. "And with this one it isn't happening."

It's a story repeated in the remote corners of the earth, as younger generations look to

the dominant language for economic survival and advancement, whether it be English or, in Taiwan's case, Chinese. Aboriginals account for only 2 percent of the Taiwanese population of 23 million. Many young people are leaving Dakanua, a picturesque village in the south that is home to the Kanakanavu language, to work in the island's cities.

Sung is clearly revered by Dakanua's tiny cadre of Kanakanavu speakers, who are happy to spend long hours going over their language with her and a small group of graduate students she brings to the village from National Taiwan University in Taipei.

On a recent Saturday afternoon, they sat outside a well-ordered cluster of whitewashed

concrete buildings, painstakingly documenting the proper use of the imperative and the grammatical subtleties of concepts like "it could be that" or "it is possible that." In the background the bamboo and palm tree covered contours of Mt. Anguana protruded through a moving blanket of fog and mist, and a thin rain fell in the Nanzixian River valley below.

Myanmar Spitfire hunt leads to water-filled crate

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—An excavation team searching for a stash of legendary World War II-era British fighter aircraft in northern Myanmar said a wooden crate believed to contain one of the planes has been found, full of muddy water.

How much water damage occurred was not yet clear, and searchers could not definitively say what was inside the crate. But British aviation enthusiast David J. Cundall, who is driving the hunt for the rare Spitfire planes, called the results "very encouraging."

"It will take some time to pump the water out ... but I do expect all aircraft to be in very good condition," Cundall told reporters Wednesday in Myanmar's main city, Yangon.

The Spitfire helped Britain beat back waves of German bombers during the war that ended in 1945, and it remains the most famous British combat aircraft. About 20,000 Spitfires were built, although the dawn of the jet age quickly made the propeller-driven, single-seat planes obsolete.

As many as 140 Spitfires—three to four times the number of airworthy models known to exist—are believed to have

been buried in near-pristine condition in Myanmar by American engineers as the war drew to a close.

The wooden crate was found in Myitkyina in Kachin state during a dig that began last month. Several digs are planned nationwide, including another near the airport in Yangon.

Cundall said the search team in Kachin inserted a camera in the crate and found water. What else was inside the crate was unclear and pumping out the water could take weeks, he said.

The go-ahead for excavation came in October when Myanmar's government signed an agreement with Cundall and his local partner.

Under the deal, Myanmar's government will get one plane for display at a museum, as well as half of the remaining total. DJC, a private company headed by Cundall, will get 30 percent of the total and the Myanmar partner company Shwe Taung Paw, headed by Htoo Htoo Zaw, will get 20 percent.

During the project's first phase, searchers hope to recover 60 planes: 36 planes in Mindragon, near Yangon's interna-

tional airport; six in Meikthila in central Myanmar; and 18 in Myitkyina. Others are to be recovered in a second phase.

Searchers hope the aircraft are in pristine condition, but others have said it's possible all they might find is a mass of corroded metal and rusty aircraft parts.

Cundall said the practice of burying aircraft, tanks and jeeps was common after the war.

"Basically nobody had got any orders to take these airplanes back to (the) UK. They were just surplus ... (and) one way of disposing them was to bury them," Cundall said. "The war was over, everybody wanted to go home, nobody wanted anything, so you just buried it and went home. That was it."

Stanley Coombe, a 91-year-old war veteran from Britain who says he witnessed the aircraft's burial, traveled to Myanmar to observe the search.

It is "very exciting for me because I never thought I would be allowed to come back and see where Spitfires have been buried," Coombe said. "It's been a long time since anybody believed what I said until David Cundall came along."

HK lawmakers try to impeach Beijing-backed leader Leung

HONG KONG (AP)—Lawmakers in Hong Kong were making a symbolic attempt Wednesday to impeach the Beijing-backed leader, the latest sign of the widening gulf between the semiautonomous southern Chinese city and its political masters in Beijing.

Pro-democracy members of Hong Kong's legislature introduced a motion to charge the city's leader, Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying, with serious breaches of law that could lead to his impeachment. They allege Leung misled them about illegal renovations to his mansion.

It's the first such attempt to impeach a Hong Kong leader since the former British colony came back under China's control in 1997. Leung survived a no-confidence vote in December.

The motion, which was being debated into the evening, was unlikely to pass because the 27 legislators are outnumbered by pro-Beijing representatives in the 70-seat Legislative Council. But it was an attempt to "show the deep mistrust against the chief executive," who is suffering from a credibility crisis, said

Ma Ngok, a political scientist at Chinese University of Hong Kong. Leung, whose approval rating has fallen to around 49 percent from a high of 56 percent, still has the support of China's communist leaders.

Leung has become a lightning rod for growing public discontent since taking office in July. Anger over a wide range of issues stems from the city's fraught relationship with mainland China.

On New Year's Day, tens of thousands of protesters took to the streets to call for Leung to step down and to press for full democracy. Beijing has pledged that Hong Kong residents can elect their leader by 2017 at the earliest though no roadmap has been laid out.

Leung took office in July after being handpicked for the city's top job by an elite group of mostly pro-Beijing tycoons. He won the job after taking advantage of a scandal involving a huge, unauthorized basement in his rival's home. But shortly before taking office, illegal additions were also discovered at Leung's home in the exclusive Victoria Peak neighborhood.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Lawyer: 3 Delhi rape suspects to plead not guilty

NEW DELHI (AP)—A lawyer for three suspects in the brutal rape and killing of a young woman in New Delhi says they will plead not guilty in the case that has transfixed India and raised questions about the treatment of women. Manohar Lal Sharma says he represents bus driver Ram Singh, Ram Singh's brother Mukesh, and another man, Akshay Thakur. The lawyer spoke briefly on his way into a New Delhi court complex for a hearing for those accused of attacking the woman on the bus in India's capital. Thursday's hearing is expected to result in the case being sent to a special "fast-track" court. India's legal system is notoriously slow and inefficient, but officials are eager to make sure the high-profile case moves quickly.

US missiles kill 5 suspected militants in Pakistan

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistan intelligence officials say U.S. drone-fired missiles have hit a house in the country's northwest tribal region, killing five suspected militants. The officials say the attack occurred Thursday in a village near Mir Ali, one of the main towns in the North Waziristan tribal area, the main sanctuary for Taliban and al-Qaida militants in Pakistan. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media.

PH leader wants strict gun control not ban

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine President Benigno Aquino III says he wants tighter control of firearms but opposes a total gun ban in the country following recent shootings including a rampage by a gunman who killed seven people. Aquino told reporters Wednesday that a total gun ban would make "a nice headline" but it would be a knee-jerk reaction. He called for "ways to really solve the issue." Among the proposals being studied is a call by anti-gun groups to ban the carrying of firearms by civilians outside their homes. The proliferation of firearms has long fueled crime and political violence as well as Muslim and communist rebellions that have raged for decades in parts of the Philippines. The country has one of the highest homicide rates in Southeast Asia.

World

Iranians freed in major prisoner swap in Syria

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP)—Rebels freed 48 Iranians on Wednesday in exchange for more than 2,000 prisoners, including women and children, held by Syrian authorities—a deal struck after rare negotiations involving regional powers Turkey, Qatar and Iran.

It was the first major prisoner swap since the uprising began against President Bashar Assad nearly 22 months ago.

Iran is one of Assad's main allies, and the Iranians, who were seized outside Damascus in August, were a major bargaining chip for factions trying to bring down his regime in the civil war that has killed more than 60,000 people.

The exchange also highlighted the plight of tens of thousands of detainees languishing in Syrian prisons, many of whom were picked up at street protests and have not been heard of since.

The group of 48 Iranians arrived Wednesday at the Sheraton hotel in several vans escorted by Syrian security forces. Looking disheveled but healthy, they were greeted by Iran's ambassador in Damascus, Mohammad Riza Shibani, and several Iranian clerics who distributed a white flower to each of the men, some of whom broke down in tears.

"The conditions placed (by the captives) were difficult, but with much work ... we succeeded in securing this release," Shibani told reporters. "I hope such tragedies will not be repeated."

He said their release was a result of elaborate and "tough" negotiations, but did not elaborate. The Syrian government, which rarely gives details on security-related matters, had no official comment and it was not clear



In this photo provided by the Turkish Islamic aid group IHH, the group's chairman, Bülent Yıldırım right, speaks with freed Syrian prisoners in Damascus, Syria, Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2013. AP

what prompted the exchange.

Rebels claimed the captives were linked to Iran's powerful Revolutionary Guard, but Tehran has denied that, saying the men were pilgrims visiting Shiite religious sites in Syria.

But U.S. State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland described most of the Iranians as "members of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard," calling it "just another example of how Iran continues to provide guidance, expertise, personnel, technical capabilities to the Syrian regime."

The rebels had threatened to kill the captives unless the Assad regime halted military op-

erations against the opposition.

It was not clear what prompted the government to negotiate the exchange, but opposition leaders said the Assad regime felt obligated to please its Iranian backers.

"The Iranian hostages had become an embarrassment to the regime," said Bassam al-Dada, a Turkey-based coordinator with the rebel Free Syrian Army. "Iran was pushing for a solution and Assad could not afford to cross his Iranian master," he said.

Kamer Kasim, an analyst at the Ankara-based International Strategic Research Organization, linked Assad's agreement

to the swap to Damascus' desire not to be seen as the intransigent party, after it rejected U.N. envoy Lakhdar Brahimi's peace deal. He said Iran has long been pressing for the release, and Syria was eager to maintain good relations with Tehran.

"The Iranian government supports the Syrian regime of Bashar Assad, and its possible refusal of the exchange deal might have harmed this relationship," Kasim said.

A spokesman for a Turkish Islamic aid group that helped coordinate the release said the regime had agreed to release 2,130 people in exchange for the Iranians.

As of Wednesday evening, it was not clear how many of those had been freed.

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan praised the swap, but expressed regret that many remain locked up by the Syrian government.

"Let's hope that they may be released as well and let's hope that the process is beneficial for all," Erdogan said during a visit to Niger.

He said the deal was brokered with the help of a Turkish and a Qatari aid organization, and added that Turkey had been talking with the rebels during the negotiations.

Hamas flagship university grooms Hebrew teachers

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)—Hamas' flagship university in Gaza has a new diploma on offer—Hebrew, the official language of its arch-foe Israel.

Gaza's Hamas rulers say they want to produce qualified teachers as the government gradually introduces Hebrew studies in its high schools. The aim is simple: It wants Palestinians in Gaza to learn their enemy's language.

"As Jews are occupying our lands, we have to understand their language," said Education Ministry official Somaya Nakhala.

There are 19 students enrolled in the first one-year Hebrew diploma course offered at the Islamic University in Gaza City, a stronghold of Hamas, the Islamic militant group that has ruled Gaza since 2007. Hamas does not recognize Israel, is officially pledged to its destruction and has killed hundreds of Israelis in suicide bombings, rocket strikes

and other attacks.

Officials hope graduates will become Hebrew teachers. Hamas has already begun offering Hebrew studies as an elective to ninth graders in 16 schools, and plans to expand the program to dozens of other schools in the coming months.

Israel occupied Gaza for 38 years after capturing it, along with the West Bank and east Jerusalem, in the 1967 Mideast war. Since withdrawing its settlers and troops from Gaza in 2005, Israel has fought two wars against Hamas and restricts access to the territory by air, land and sea.

The coastal strip still relies on Israeli-run crossings for most consumer goods, and Gaza patients must receive special permits to reach medical care in Israel or the West Bank.

Students need to "understand what's going on, like wars, medical treatment in Israel, in

the West Bank," said the Education Ministry's Nakhala.

There is no shortage of Hebrew speakers in Gaza, at least among older residents. For years, Gaza Palestinians entered Israel to work in restaurants, construction and other menial jobs. Thousands of others learned the language while held in Israeli prisons. In quieter times, many Israelis would come to Gaza to fix their cars, bargain hunt or eat at local restaurants.

But after the outbreak of the first Palestinian uprising in the late 1980s, Israelis stopped coming. After a second uprising erupted in 2000, Israel sharply restricted the entry of Gazans. Since Israel's pullout and the subsequent Hamas takeover, direct contact between the sides is virtually nonexistent.

This tortured relationship with Israel was on display during Hebrew class this week at the Islamic University.

MEXICO CITY (AP)—A 15-year-old girl found fatally bitten by dogs outside a Mexico City park in mid-December may have been the first victim of a feral pack suspected of killing at least four other people over the last month, prosecutors said Wednesday.

Authorities began capturing dogs in the park this week after a mother and her infant boy were found dead and covered in dog bites on Dec. 29 and the bodies of a teenage couple were found covered in fatal bites from as many as 10 dogs a week later.

The four were believed to have been the only victims until the mother of 15-year-old Ana Gabriela Nataret Ramirez told Milenio Television late Tuesday that their daughter had died in hospital after being found covered with apparent dog bites near the Cerro de la Estrella park in the poor southeastern Mexico City district of Iztapalapa on the night of Dec. 16.

The city prosecutor's office

confirmed the details of the case Wednesday and said it was looking into whether her case was connected to the other deaths.

"An autopsy revealed that the victim had multiple injuries and puncture wounds on both arms," the prosecutor's office said. "After the events of recent days, the Mexico City district attorney's office broadened the investigation and confirmed the possibility of a new case of homicide resulting from wounds caused by dogs."

Animal control officers swept the park for feral dogs again Wednesday after capturing 36 animals over the last two days. Borough president Jesus Valencia told reporters at the pound where the animals are being kept that 33 dogs were captured but his office said later that 36 dogs had been caught.

In addition to rabies, the dogs have been tested for traces of human blood and DNA in order to determine if they were involved in the killings. Valencia

WORLD BRIEFS

Lowered UK flag sparks Protestant fury in Belfast

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP)—At Belfast City Hall, the flagpole is bare—and the streets are filled with nighttime fear and fury. These are dangerous times in Northern Ireland, a long-divided corner of the United Kingdom that is supposed to be at peace after decades of unrest thanks to its hard-won cease-fires and a Catholic-Protestant government. But the lowering of a single Union Jack has exposed a society still split between two competing identities. Last month, Catholics who narrowly outnumber Protestants on the council voted to reduce the flying of the flag to just 18 official days a year, ending a century when the British national symbol favored by Protestants flew uninterrupted year-round.

Tattooed artist runs for Czech president

PRAGUE (AP)—He's tattooed from head to toe, a warrior-like mix of blue, green and red. He's also running in a surprising third place ahead of this week's Czech presidential elections. Vladimir Franz, an opera composer and painter, seems the most unlikely of candidates for a prestigious post previously held by beloved playwright-dissident Vaclav Havel and Vaclav Klaus, a professor credited with plotting the economic transition from communism to a free market. Some have a nickname for Franz: 'Avatar.' And during a televised debate a caller compared him to "an exotic creature from Papua New Guinea."

said the rabies tests had all come back negative, and the prosecutors' office said the other tests were pending.

He said the borough was helping pay funeral costs for the victims and get psychological help for the relatives.

Many family members have expressed skepticism that dogs could have killed their loved ones, saying their injuries appeared too devastating to have been the result of dog bites.

Valencia said that the borough planned to allow people to adopt any dogs not involved in the killings.

After authorities released photos of the captured dogs, activists started an online campaign protesting the animals' innocence and calling for authorities not to euthanize them. Tens of thousands of dogs are euthanized each year in Mexico if they are captured by animal control officers and not claimed within 72 hours.

Off The Wall

Sweden seeks 2 for smuggling garlic

STOCKHOLM (AP)—Swedish prosecutors have issued international arrest warrants for two Britons suspected of masterminding a smuggling ring involving Chinese garlic.

The men first shipped the garlic to Norway by boat, where it entered the country duty-free since it was considered to be in transit, prosecutor Thomas Ahlstrand said Wednesday. They then drove large shipments of garlic across the Norwegian-Swed-

ish border, avoiding customs checks and thus Swedish import duties.

Ahlstrand said the men avoided paying some (EURO)10 million (\$13.1 million) in Swedish taxes with the scheme, which took place in 2009 and 2010. A lengthy police investigation led to the identification of the two Britons.

Ahlstrand initially said they smuggled in 1.2 tons of garlic, but later said the exact amount was unclear.

It was not the first time smugglers have shown a preference for garlic from China, which accounts for nearly 80 percent of world output and is often significantly cheaper than local varieties.

In 2010, Polish authorities seized six containers with 144 tons of Chinese garlic that had been smuggled into the country via the Netherlands.

It was not immediately clear whether the Polish smuggling was linked to the Swedish case.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Mass. couple's wedding day is also town's ZIP code

AMESBURY, Mass. (AP)—Couples often hold weddings on significant dates, but a Massachusetts couple has come up with a new way of remembering their ceremony. Cheryl Bennett and Steven DeLong, longtime residents of Amesbury, are getting married Wednesday, the same date as the town's ZIP code of 01913. Forty-five-year-old mechanic DeLong and 31-year-old medical receptionist Bennett will hold a short outdoor ceremony at the town gazebo with their children from previous marriages. Bennett tells The Daily News of Newburyport that she is fascinated by numbers and that the ZIP code wedding idea was hers. Her favorite numbers are 11 and 22, and her husband-to-be's birthday is Nov. 22.

Police: Fla. clerk's gun beats thief's cattle prod

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP)—Authorities say a Florida Panhandle man has been arrested after he tried to rob a convenience store with a cattle prod but was thwarted by a clerk with a gun. The Leon County Sheriff's Office says 26-year-old Lance Tomberlin went into a store just outside Tallahassee on January 2, produced the cattle prod and demanded money from the clerk. Officials say he shocked the clerk several times before the clerk pulled a handgun. Authorities say Tomberlin fled and another employee tried to restrain him, but he eventually escaped in his truck. Deputies stopped Tomberlin's truck but he fled on foot. The sheriff's office says Tomberlin was arrested Tuesday and charged with armed robbery and aggravated battery. Jail records didn't say if Tomberlin had an attorney. He was being held without bail.

Man who rode horse while drunk gets time served

BUNNELL, Fla. (AP)—A Florida man accused of riding his horse while intoxicated during a police chase has changed his plea and was sentenced to time served. The Daytona Beach News-Journal reports 29-year-old Charles Larkin Cowart pleaded no contest Tuesday to obstructing an officer without vio-

lence and interfering with railroad tracks. He originally pleaded not guilty to the Sept. 24 ride through Bunnell, north of Orlando. Circuit Judge David Walsh also sentenced Cowart to three years of probation. He had been held in the Flagler County Jail on \$7,000 bail. Police say Cowart told them he was on his way to this grandmother's house. He refused their request to get off the horse and took off. Eventually, the horse became exhausted and Cowart ran. He was arrested a short time later.

Ore. deputies: Wooden statue was a bear to steal

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—A bear that weighs more than 200 pounds is missing, and it's not in hibernation.

The sheriff's office in Washington County, Ore., says the wooden statue of a bear was stolen from a home in Portland during the weekend. The homeowner bought the 5-foot-tall statue in 1996 for \$1,700 and had it displayed in the front yard for many years. Sheriff's Sgt. Bob Ray says the theft occurred in the overnight hours, and it would have taken at least two people to carry away the bear. Investigators are confident the public will help them quickly solve the crime. Authorities have yet to receive any tips, but Ray says "you can't hide that bear."

Swiss court wipes slate clean on ancient farm debt

GENEVA (AP)—A Swiss court has wiped out an annual debt that farmers have had to pay the Catholic Church to atone for a crime 655 years ago. Swiss public broadcaster RTS says a court in the northeastern canton (state) of Glarus ruled that the current farm owner no longer has to pay 70 Swiss francs (\$76) each year because Swiss mortgage reforms in the mid-19th century made the practice invalid. The broadcaster reported Tuesday the court sided with the landowner in a dispute with the church after he refused to make the annual payment for oil and candles. The payments had been a tradition since 1357, when a man named Konrad Mueller killed a man named Heinrich Stucki. To atone, Muel-

ler promised to always pay to keep an eternal lamp lit.

Fast-food robber suspect returns to eat, is nabbed

PONTIAC, Mich. (AP)—Officials say a suspected robber of a suburban Detroit restaurant who apparently returned months later to get some food is under arrest after being recognized by employees. The Oakland County sheriff's department says workers at a McDonald's in Pontiac spotted the 40-year-old man Saturday in the drive-thru. Sheriff's deputies responded and took the Pontiac man into custody. He was being held at the Oakland County Jail pending charges. The robbery happened Oct. 5.

Oregon beer lover makes brew for dogs: Dawg Grog

BEND, Ore. (AP)—An Oregon man who loves beer and loves his dog has concocted some hooch for the pooch. Daniel Keeton works at Bend's Boneyard Brewery tasting room and calls his canine creation Dawg Grog. KTVZ reports there's no alcohol in the doggie brew. Ingredients include vegetable broth and spent grain. Bottles of Dawg Grog are on sale at the Visit Bend store, along with other local beers. Keeton says his dog, Lola Jane, usually licks her bowl clean.

Antique Spitfire plane collapses on UK runway

LONDON (AP)—Airport officials say an antique Spitfire aircraft owned by engine company Rolls Royce collapsed shortly after landing at East Midlands Airport in central England. The airport said in a statement the World War II-era plane's undercarriage failed as it touched down Monday afternoon. The pilot was unharmed and the damaged aircraft was towed away. The sleek-looking Spitfire played a pivotal role in the Battle of Britain, when the single-seat fighter helped beat back waves of German bombers. More than 20,000 were built, although only a few dozen remain in working order today. Rolls Royce, which built the Merlin engines used to power the fighters, says it bought this plane in 1996. It typically appears at airshows and corporate functions.

Science & Technology

The pluses and minuses of digital SLR cameras

By DON LINDICH
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Q. When would you select a digital SLR over a mirrorless camera system, and what are your thoughts on the different SLR brands?—D.C., Milwaukee

A. Either type of system can perform most any photographic task. Personally, I use my Micro Four-Thirds mirrorless system for travel, family and general all-around use. I prefer SLRs in the studio, for low light, and for action photography.

Most digital SLR systems have been adapted from legacy 35mm systems. The advantage is possible compatibility with older lenses. The disadvantage is extra weight and bulk. Most digital SLRs have a sensor that is smaller than 35mm film, so the bodies and lenses are larger than they need to be to handle the sensor size. It is with this in mind that Olympus and Panasonic developed the Four-Thirds system, an SLR system "designed for digital" from the ground up. Panasonic discontinued their SLRs to concentrate on the Micro Four-Thirds mirrorless interchangeable lens camera system. Olympus still manufactures a few Four-Thirds SLRs, but now focuses most of their efforts on

Micro Four-Thirds as well.

Some SLRs do have large sensors the size of 35mm film. These are referred to as "full frame" cameras. These are the ultimate for image quality, but are expensive, demand the very best optics and create very large files that quickly fill up your memory card and hard drive. Most digital SLRs use an "APS-C" sized sensor that is smaller than full frame but a bit bigger than Four-Thirds.

Canon and Nikon are referred to as the "big two" and dominate the SLR market.

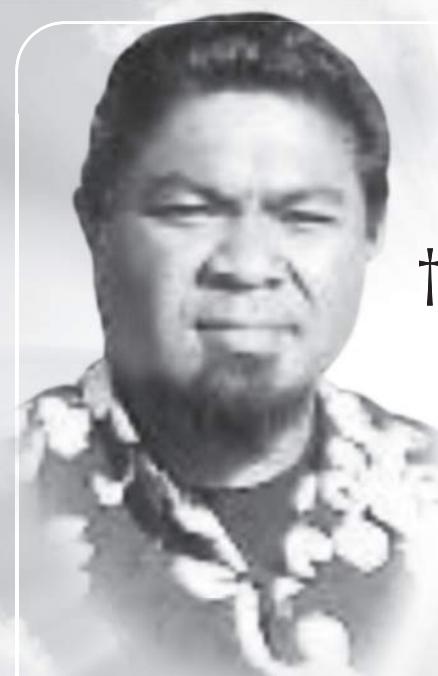
These are the most comprehensive systems in the industry and include a wide variety of specialized pro bodies and expensive, high performance optics. If you are a budding professional or a serious wildlife photographer with a big budget, these are the systems for you. Consumers can hardly go wrong with any camera from either manufacturer. I am not as impressed with either company's inexpensive lenses and that is one of the reasons I think better value can often be found elsewhere.

Pentax is my personal choice and has been going back to the film era, when I used Pentax medium-format film cameras. I love the way the cameras feel in

my hands and love the color and sharpness of the pictures. Pentax's inexpensive kit lenses are excellent, and Pentax also offers a unique line of tiny fixed focal length lenses with top-shelf optical performance. Pentax SLRs have image stabilization built into the camera body, which means every lens you mount is stabilized. The top-rated, high performance Pentax K-30 is one of the best values available in a digital SLR. It sells for a street price of \$662 with 18-55 lens.

Sony has a full line of SLRs, including both APS-C and full-frame models. Like Pentax, image stabilization is built into the body and as of late Sony has really fleshed out the system with high-quality optics under both the Sony and Zeiss names as well as some interesting cameras using the legacy lens mount and form factor, but with electronic viewfinders for better video and high-speed photography functionality. I have not tested one and surmise I would prefer an optical viewfinder, but my colleagues who have tested them have been very impressed.

Contact Don Lindich at www.soundadviceblog.com and use the "submit question" link on that site.



In Celebration of His New Life

†Fred Ngiraois Camacho

Born to life on August 8, 1972 and was called to his eternal rest on January 7, 2013 at Portland, Oregon

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Father: Felipe San Nicolas Camacho (also known as Felipe Chandi)
Mother: †Tomiko Ngiraois (also known as Sussie)

Wife, children, brothers, sisters, and numerous relatives and friends.

Nightly rosary is offered at San Roque Church at 7:00 pm. On the final day January 15, 2013, mass will be offered at 6pm followed by the holy rosary.

Appreciation dinner will be held at Mr. & Mrs. Felipe SN. Camacho residence in San Roque.

Please join us in prayers.

Un Dangkulo Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase

Ginen I Familia

Life & Style

'Lincoln' leads race for British Academy Awards

LONDON (AP)—Historical biopic "Lincoln" leads the race for the British Academy Film Awards, with 10 nominations including best picture at the U.K. equivalent of the Oscars.

Epic musical "Les Misérables" and boy-meets-tiger saga "Life of Pi" received nine nominations each on Wednesday. James Bond adventure "Skyfall" got eight—rare awards recognition for an action movie—and Iran hostage thriller "Argo" took seven.

"Lincoln" focuses on the last months in the life of U.S. President Abraham Lincoln, as he struggled to end the Civil War and pass a constitutional amendment banning slavery.

Britain's Daniel Day-Lewis is nominated for leading actor for

his uncanny embodiment of the iconic president, and there are supporting nominations for Sally Field as his wife Mary Todd Lincoln and Tommy Lee Jones as abolitionist firebrand Thaddeus Stevens. But the film's director, Steven Spielberg, failed to get a nod.

The best picture nominees are "Lincoln," "Les Misérables," "Life of Pi," "Argo" and Osama bin Laden thriller "Zero Dark Thirty."

"Les Misérables" is also a contender in the separate category of best British film, alongside "Anna Karenina," "The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel," "Seven Psychopaths" and "Skyfall."

Ben Affleck is nominated both as director of "Argo" and as its leading actor. The other

male acting contenders are Day-Lewis, Bradley Cooper for "Silver Linings Playbook," Hugh Jackman for "Les Misérables" and Joaquin Phoenix for "The Master."

"Skyfall" star Daniel Craig was snubbed, but the film received supporting acting nominations for Judi Dench's spy chief and Javier Bardem's scene-stealing baddie.

The best-actress shortlist includes 85-year-old "Amour" star Emmanuelle Riva—who was nominated for the same prize 52 years ago for "Hiroshima, Mon Amour"—Helen Mirren for "Hitchcock," Jennifer Lawrence for "Silver Linings Playbook," Jessica Chastain for "Zero Dark Thirty" and Marion Cotillard for "Rust and Bone."

AND THE NOMINEES ARE...

LONDON (AP)—Nominees in major categories for the British Academy Film Awards, announced Wednesday:

■ **Film:** "Argo," "Les Misérables," "Life Of Pi," "Lincoln," "Zero Dark Thirty"

■ **British Film:** "Anna Karenina," "The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel," "Les Misérables," "Seven Psychopaths," "Skyfall"

■ **Director:** Michael Haneke, "Amour"; Ben Affleck, "Argo"; Quentin Tarantino, "Django Unchained"; Ang Lee, "Life Of Pi"; Kathryn Bigelow, "Zero Dark Thirty"

■ **Leading Actor:** Ben Affleck, "Argo"; Bradley Cooper, "Silver Linings Playbook"; Daniel Day-Lewis, "Lincoln"; Hugh Jackman, "Les Misérables"; Joaquin Phoenix, "The Master"

■ **Leading Actress:** Emmanuelle Riva, "Amour"; Helen Mirren, "Hitchcock"; Jennifer Lawrence, "Silver Linings Playbook"; Jessica Chastain, "Zero Dark Thirty"; Marion Cotillard, "Rust and Bone"

■ **Supporting Actor:** Alan Arkin, "Argo"; Christoph Waltz, "Django Unchained"; Javier Bardem, "Skyfall"; Philip Seymour Hoffman, "The Master"; Tommy Lee Jones, "Lincoln"

■ **Supporting Actress:** Amy Adams, "The Master"; Anne Hathaway, "Les Misérables"; Helen Hunt, "The Sessions"; Judi Dench, "Skyfall"; Sally Field, "Lincoln"

■ **Rising Star Award (voted by the public):** Elizabeth Olsen, Andrea Riseborough, Suraj Sharma, Juno Temple, Alicia Vikander

■ **Original Screenplay:** Michael Haneke, "Amour"; Quentin Tarantino, "Django Unchained"; Paul Thomas Anderson, "The Master"; Wes Anderson, Roman Coppola, "Moonrise Kingdom"; Mark Boal, "Zero Dark Thirty"

■ **Adapted Screenplay:** Chris Terrio, "Argo"; Lucy Alibar, Benh Zeitlin, "Beasts Of The Southern Wild"; David Magee, "Life Of Pi"; Tony Kushner, "Lincoln"; David O. Russell, "Silver Linings Playbook"

■ **Film Not in the English Language:** "Amour," "Headhunters," "The Hunt," "Rust and Bone," "Untouchable"

■ **Animated Film:** "Brave," "Frankenweenie," "ParaNorman"

■ **Documentary:** "The Imposter," "Marley," "McCullin," "Searching For Sugar Man," "West Of Memphis"

In Celebration of His New Life

†Juan Selepeo Pua

Lovingly known as "Tan Kuku"

Born to life on December 05, 1935 and was called to eternal rest on January 04, 2013

In His New Life, He Now Joins His:

Wife: †Lourdes Hocog Atalig Pua
Parents: †Juan Neliga Pua & †Juana Selepeo Pua
Brothers: †Pedro S. Ruboenog, †Damian S. Pua, †Jesus S. Pua
Sisters: †Adela S. Lifoifo, †Antonia P. Kani, †Marcelina P. Taitano
Parents In-Law: †Jesus M. Atalig & †Ursula H. Atalig
Daughter In-Law: †Trinidad T. Pua

His Memories Will Forever Live in the Hearts of His:

Brother: Theodoro Selepeo
Wife: Marita Bermudez Pua
Parents In-Law: Carlos & Adrica Bermudez

Children, Grandchildren, and Great grandchildren:

Eddie A. & Doris B. Pua (Erica P. & Jay Atalig and child, Hans B. Pua and children, Keoni B. Pua & Vicki Cabrera and child, Doreen B. Pua & Nathan Pangelinan)
Lorenza P. & Ricardo P. Castro (Jesse A. & Deveyan C. Pua and children, Zenia P. Castro & Jesse Saralu and child, Byron P. Castro & Ana Marie F. Teregeyo and children, Darrel P. Castro/Paula Reyes and child, Richard & Velma M. Castro and children, Dewayne & Misato Castro and child)
Alfredo A. & Susan M. Pua (Corina L. Magofna & Joey Rios and child, Wayne M. Pua and child, Quinn M. Pua, Samantha M. Pua, Keonu M. Pua)
Remedio P. & Jose P. San Nicolas (Joseph P. San Nicolas & Norma Reyes and children, Derek P. San Nicolas & Isabel Sablan and children, Maynard P. San Nicolas & Jovan Fred, Myron P. San Nicolas and child, Frances P. San Nicolas)
Sylvan A. & Jeannie Pangelinan (Delbert T. Pua, Darren T. Pua, Daylan T. Pua)
Martin A. & Rosa L. Pua (Roquita Norita & Mike Cruz and child, Shaun L. & Samantha DLG. Pua and child, Nashlyn L. Pua, Kendra L. Pua)
James A. & Patrocinia M. Pua (Lou Frances M. Pua)
Winfred A. Pua & Annette J. Castro (Amber Garrido and children, Vince Garrido, Bradley J. Castro, Brandon C. Pua, Napu C. Pua, Loujuana C. Pua)

He will be greatly missed by numerous nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Mass of Intentions are being celebrated every evening at Santa Remedios Church at 6:00PM and followed by Holy Rosary at 7:30PM.

Funeral Services will be held on Saturday, January 12, 2013. His remains will be escorted from CHC Chapel at 7:30AM to Santa Remedios Church. Responsorial Service and Holy Rosary will immediately take place upon his arrival. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00AM followed by interment service at Tanapag Cemetery where he will Rest In Peace.

Please Join Us in Prayers.

The Family

In Celebration of Her New Life

†Margarita Sablan Arriola

Lovingly known as "Tange"

Was born to life on December 24, 1934 and called to her Eternal Rest on January 04, 2013 at the age of 78.

In her new life she now joins her Parents:
Pedro T. Arriola and Rosa S. Arriola

Her Daughters:
Patricia A. Manglona and Patricia (Patty) A. Manglona

Her Brothers, Sisters and In-Laws:
Luis and Maria C. Arriola
Juliana (Nenai) and Gregorio Arriola
Trinidad (Da) and Victorino T. Borja
Trinidad (Mako) S. Sizemore
Jesus (Sibo) Sonoda
Jose (Boya) Sonoda

Her Grandson: Jerome Manglona
and Son In-Laws: Ben Ogo and Vicente (Ben) C. Pangelinan

Her Spirits and Memories will forever live in the hearts of her Children:

Bertha M and †Ben Ogo and Children: Roy, Frank Jr, Anthony Kevin, Sharma, Bernie, Eleanor and Donicio Agulto
Martin A and Dolores Manglona and Children: Tracy Lyn, Tanya Kimberly and Trinae
Rosa M and †Vicente (Ben) Pangelinan and Children: Eric, Jeffery, Sarah, Vicente and Lesley Ann
Jose Pedro A and Mary Manglona and Children: Tamara and Joe
Michael A and Vicki Manglona and Children: †Jerome, Michael, Justin, Tanya, Eugene, Michael and Patrick
Margarita M and Manuel Bahillo and Children: Ann Margaret, Derek Jake, Ryan Christopher, Albert and Tasha Lian
Gregorio S Arriola and Katrina Ada and Children: Isidro, Joshua and Gregorio Jr.

Brother and Sister and In-Laws:
Jesus Ramon (Ini) and Anicia Sonoda
†Jesus (Sibo) and Menchang Sonoda
†Trinidad (Mako) and William Sizemore
Rosie (Tading) and Marvin Kessler

Her Brother In-Laws and Sister In Laws:
Rita M and †Vicente SN Babauta
Donicio and †Ana G. Manglona
Martin A Manglona
Agnes M. MacPheters

She is also survived by numerous Great-Grand Children, Grand Children In-Laws, Aunts, Uncle, Nieces, Nephews, Cousins, God Children and Friends.

Daily Mass of Intentions is being offered at Kristo Rai Church at 6:00 am and Saint Jude Church at 6:00 pm. On **Tuesday, January 15, 2013** our dearly beloved will be escorted from Borja's Funeral home at 7:30 am to Saint Jude Church. Response, Holy Rosary and public viewing will follow immediately. Mass for the Christian Burial will be at 10:30 am, followed by the Internment Service at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery where she will be laid to rest.

Thank you, Si Yuus Ma'ase and God Bless.

From the Family

Beyoncé, Clarkson to perform at Obama inauguration

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama can expect some sweet serenades at his inauguration ceremony, with hit-makers Beyoncé, Kelly Clarkson and James Taylor on tap to perform some of the most patriotic U.S. songs.

From Hollywood to Music Row, celebrities have been a staple of Obama's candidacy and presidency, so it was with little surprise that some of the biggest names in entertainment are helping him celebrate his Jan. 21 swearing-in.

Planners said Wednesday that Obama picked Beyoncé to sing the national anthem, Clarkson to perform "My Country 'Tis of Thee" and Taylor to sing "America the Beautiful."

Beyoncé and Taylor have been devoted Obama supporters. Beyoncé sang the Etta James classic "At Last" for the president and first lady's dance at the inaugural balls four years ago and hosted a \$4 million fundraiser for his re-

election. Taylor sang at the White House in Obama's first term and at the Democratic National Convention last summer.

Clarkson, however, once said she was a fan of Republican presidential candidate Ron Paul for the 2012 race, although she said she voted Obama in 2008. She said on Twitter Wednesday that she is "excited & honored" to be performing at the inaugural.



Beyoncé

said Blanco, 44, will be the youngest-ever inaugural poet and the first Hispanic or gay to recite a poem at the ceremonial swearing-in.

"His contributions to the fields of poetry and the arts have already paved a path forward for future generations of writers," Obama

said in a statement. "Richard's writing will be wonderfully fitting for an inaugural that will celebrate the strength of the American people and our nation's great diversity."

Obama also gave a nod to the diversity of styles and backgrounds of the musical performers, saying that "their music is often at the heart of the American story and speaks to folks across the country."

Blanco said in the statement that he was "brimming over with

excitement, awe, and gratitude" at being selected.

"In many ways, this is the very 'stuff' of the American Dream, which underlies so much of my work and my life's story—America's story, really," he said.

Paperbacks of Blanco's books are out of stock on Amazon.com. They, along with virtually all works of poetry, are not available as e-books because publishers have not figured out how to format poetry properly for a digital device, so the only way to buy them is to find a used print copy.

The announcements are part of the specifics beginning to emerge for the festivities planned over the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend. The swearing-in ceremony is scheduled for Monday, Jan. 21, because inaugurations aren't traditionally held on Sundays. The president will have a private swearing-in ceremony at the White House at noon on Jan. 20, the time the U.S. Constitution says his second term begins.



Clarkson

Moore talks gun control after US shooting

NEW YORK (AP)—More than a decade has passed since Michael Moore released his pro-gun control documentary "Bowling for Columbine," and the director says he's saddened that the nation has not made enough strides toward ending violence in schools.

"I never thought I would have to, a decade later, stand here and say that that film of mine did no good. That to me is personally heartbreaking," Moore said Tuesday night while on the red carpet at National Board of Review Awards.

His 2002 documentary, which won an Academy Award, was inspired by the 1999 Columbine High School shootings in Colorado.

Moore says he has no interest in making a film about last month's shooting at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, that left 20 children and six adults dead.

"No, I've made the film I wanted to make with 'Bowling for Columbine.' Every word in it stands true to this day, which is the saddest thing," he said.

The Sandy Hook tragedy has reignited the national debate on guns; President Barack Obama has appointed Vice President Joseph Biden to help come up with a solution.

The "Fahrenheit 9/11" filmmaker said that certain weapons need to be banned, and gun ownership should always require a license.

"The short term solution is we have to ban the assault weapons, ban the semiautomatic weapons, ban the magazines that can hold more than ten bullets. That's it. That should be the bottom line of what we need to start with," he said. "We should be licensing everybody with a gun. I have to have a license for my dog. I have to have a license for my car. If you're going to do

my hair later you have to have a license ... We don't require a license to own a firearm?"

He also said America's violence issue runs much deeper than gun control laws.

"We are a violent people," said Moore. "We as Americans believe it's OK to kill people. Not talking about the insane

people now. We're talking about our government which is of, by and for the people—says it's OK to kill people. So why is it a surprise when the unhinged, who live in the same society, go 'I feel like killing some people today?' I think we need to take a look at ourselves."

'Lincoln,' 'Les Miz' look for big Oscar haul

BEVERLY HILLS, California (AP)—Crusaders for good, old-fashioned Western democracy look to be the key figures vying for this year's Academy Awards.

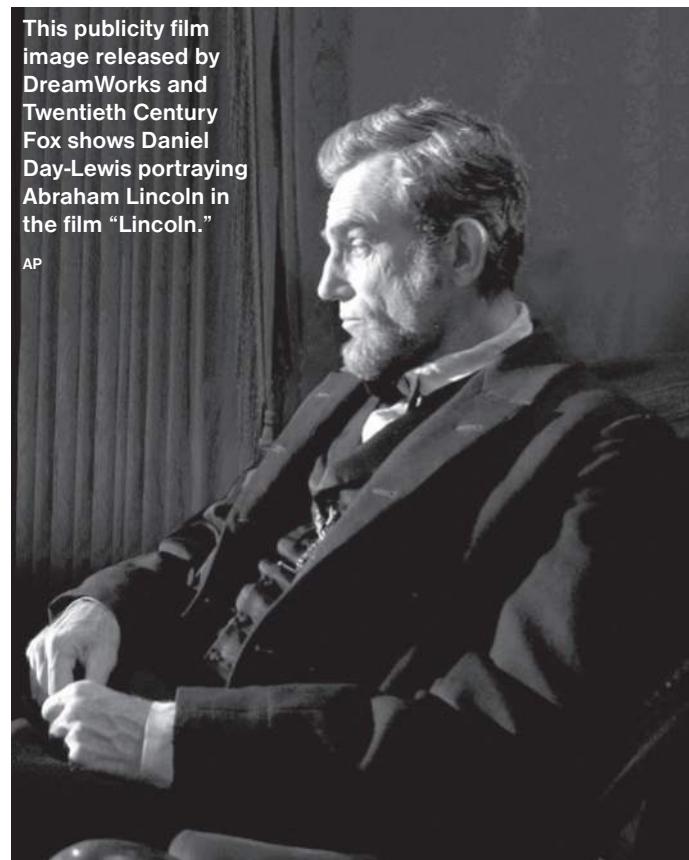
Best-picture favorites for Thursday morning's Oscar nominations include "Lincoln," Steven Spielberg's portrait of the great emancipator who abolished slavery and reunified the United States; "Zero Dark Thirty," Kathryn Bigelow's chronicle of the hunt for U.S. public enemy No. 1, Osama bin Laden; and "Les Misérables," Tom Hooper's musical epic set against an uprising of freedom fighters in 19th century France.

Among other prospects are "Argo," Ben Affleck's thriller about a CIA scheme to save Americans from Iran amid the 1979 hostage crisis; "Django Unchained," Quentin Tarantino's bloody revenge saga about a former slave hunting white oppressors just before the Civil War; and "Life of Pi," Ang Lee's story of a free-thinking Indian youth cast adrift on a lifeboat with a Bengal tiger while traveling to a new life in North America.

This year's nominations come earlier than usual in Hollywood's long awards season, leaving the awards picture a bit murkier. By the time Oscar nominations come out most years, the Golden Globes already have given their trophies, helping to sort out prospective front-runners for show business' top prize.

This publicity film image released by DreamWorks and Twentieth Century Fox shows Daniel Day-Lewis portraying Abraham Lincoln in the film "Lincoln."

AP



biggest night.

The nominations this time precede the Golden Globes ceremony, which follows on Sunday.

The Globes and other honors presented in late January and February by directors, actors, writers and producers guilds will clear up the best-picture race for the Oscars. Right now, "Lincoln," "Les Misérables" and "Zero Dark Thirty" appear the most likely contenders for the top prize.

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Gangsters Squad

Friday	4:15	7:15	9:50
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15
Mon through Thurs	4:15	7:15	
Cast: Sean Penn, Ryan Gosling, Josh Brolin			
Genre: Crime • Rated R			

Synopsis

Sean Penn, Josh Brolin, and Ryan Gosling star in this Warner Bros. adaptation of the L.A. Times article on a squad of cops in 1940's Los Angeles whose job it was to stop East Coast mafiosos from setting up shop in their city. Zombieland's Ruben Fleischer directs.

Les Misérables

Friday	4:20	7:50	
Saturday	1:00	4:20	7:50
Sunday	1:00	4:20	7:50
Mon through Thurs	4:20	7:50	
Cast: Hugh Jackman, Russell Crowe, Anne Hathaway			
Genre: Musical • Rated PG 13			

Synopsis

The King's Speech's Tom Hooper directs this adaptation of Cameron Mackintosh's successful musical version of Victor Hugo's classic novel. The drama surrounds a the obsessive quest of Inspector Javert (Russell Crowe) as he spends years in an effort to capture escaped convict Jean Valjean. Hugh Jackman stars in the Universal Pictures production.

Texas Chainsaw 3D

Friday	7:30	9:45	
Saturday	1:30	7:30	9:45
Sunday	1:30	7:30	
Mon through Thurs	7:30		
Cast: Alexandra Daddario, Scott Eastwood			
Genre: Horror • Rated R			

Texas Chainsaw 2D

Friday	4:00		
Saturday	4:00		
Sunday	4:00		
Mon through Thurs	4:00		
Cast: Alexandra Daddario, Scott Eastwood			
Genre: Horror • Rated R			

Django Unchained

Friday	4:30	8:00	
Saturday	1:05	4:30	8:00
Sunday	1:05	4:30	8:00
Mon through Thurs	4:30	8:00	
Cast: Jamie Foxx, Leonardo DiCaprio, Christopher Waltz			
Genre: Western • Rated R			

Jack Reacher

Friday	4:10	7:10	10:00	
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10	10:00
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10	
Mon through Thurs	4:10	7:10		
Cast: Tom Cruise, Rosamund Pike, Robert Duvall				
Genre: Thriller • Rated PG 13				

Monsters Inc. 3D

Friday	4:05	7:05	9:35	
Saturday	1:20	4:05	7:05	
Sunday	1:20	4:05	7:05	
Mon through Thurs	4:05	7:05		
Cast: John Goodman, Billy Crystal, Mary Gibbs				
Genre: Animation, Family • Rated G				

The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D

Friday	7:55
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Perplexed bride ponders how to let bridesmaid gently go

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I used to be close friends with "Colette." We were so close that I asked her to be a bridesmaid in my April wedding.

Over the last several years of our friendship, Colette became selfish and domineering. It didn't bother me so much before, because I felt her positive qualities outweighed the negative. However, after several recent incidents, I finally told her I was upset. She offered a cop-out response, and we have not communicated since then. That was a month ago.

How do I let her know that I want to withdraw my request for her to be a bridesmaid? I don't want to hurt her feelings, but my wedding will be a small, private affair, and her presence would be painful and disruptive to me and another bridesmaid who recently had a similar experience with her.

Colette may not be burning with desire to come anyway, given our falling out, and hasn't yet incurred any of the expenses or spent any of the time and effort associated with being a bridesmaid. I don't want to act unkindly, even though I don't plan on rekindling the friendship.

NEEDS PERSPECTIVE IN KANSAS

DEAR NEEDS: Tell Colette politely that your plans have changed and that you have decided to "scale back" the wedding; therefore your wedding party will be smaller and you won't need her after all. It's euphemistic enough that it could be taken to mean that finances have dictated your decision, which would be face-saving for her.

If she feels as you suspect she does, she may be relieved to be let off the hook. And if not, well—you don't plan on continuing your friendship with her in any case. Do not make the conversation anything but polite and brief.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My mother had to be placed in a nursing home a year and a half ago. It has been a difficult time in our lives. She had two small, adorable dogs that kept her company for many years. I have kept them at her home and provide daily care and love to them.

I tried to find them a loving home, to no avail. I can't bring them to my home because I'm allergic to dogs. They're accustomed to being indoors, and the elderly one can't stand the extreme heat in our area.

My problem is my brother. He knows I need a good home for Mom's dogs, but he went out and BOUGHT another dog for his family. I was hurt and angry when he told me, but tried not to show it. I'm bitter about it because Mom's pets still need a home.

I'm finding it hard to speak to my brother now. I have never had a mean bone in my body or felt this way before, but I don't understand how he could do this. Am I wrong to feel this way? I respect your opinion, so could you advise me?

DOGGONE IT!

DEAR DOGGONE IT!: Your feelings are understandable. However, before you let them degenerate into lasting antipathy, have a frank talk with your brother. Tell him your feelings and find out why he didn't volunteer to take in your mother's dogs. There is nothing to be gained by stewing in silence, and he may have had a reason.

You might have better luck finding a home for your mother's dogs if you contact no-kill shelters and rescue groups in your area. The dogs might be ideal companions for another senior if they are loving and housebroken. Most shelters offer a "senior for senior" discount where qualified senior citizens can adopt a senior companion animal, usually seven years old or older, with all fees waived.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)



Dear Abby

People's Choice Awards a feast for 'Hunger Games'

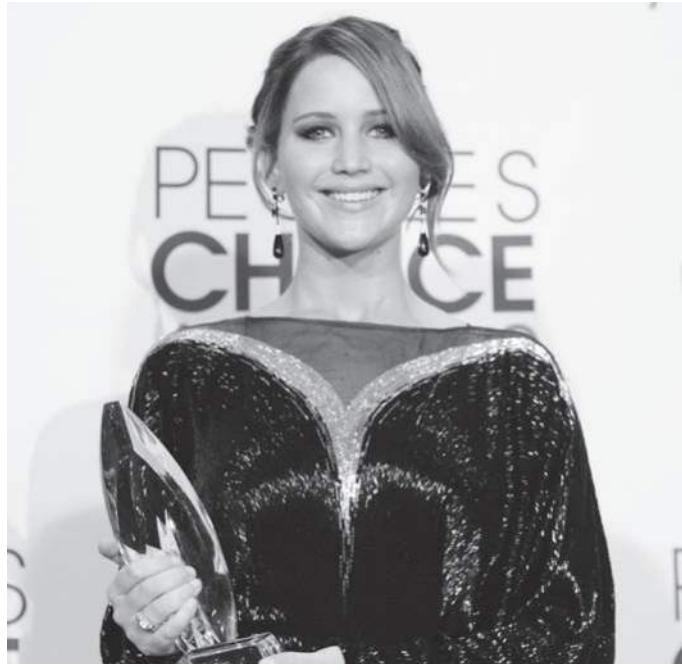
LOS ANGELES (AP)—"The Hunger Games" devoured the competition at the People's Choice Awards, emerging the top victor with five trophies.

Katy Perry won three awards at the Wednesday night ceremony in Los Angeles, at which fans selected the winners in categories spanning music, movies and television.

"Hunger Games" was named favorite movie, action movie and movie franchise, and stars Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson

Jennifer Lawrence, winner of the award for best movie for "The Hunger Games," poses backstage at the People's Choice Awards at the Nokia Theatre on Wednesday Jan. 9, 2013, in Los Angeles.

AP



Adele to make post-baby debut at Golden Globes

BEVERLY HILLS, California (AP)—Adele is coming to the Golden Globes.

The executive producer of the show says the 24-year-old Grammy-winning pop star is set to make her first post-baby appearance at Sunday's ceremony, where she is nominated for



Adele

original song for the James Bond theme "Skyfall."

Adele welcomed her first child, with boyfriend Simon Konecki, in October. The singer has kept a low profile since announcing her pregnancy in June after sweeping the Grammy Awards last Feb-

ruary with six wins.

Her single, "Skyfall," will compete at the Golden Globes with Taylor Swift's song from "The Hunger Games," Jon Bon Jovi's number from "Stand Up Guys," Keith Urban's track from "Act of Valor," and "Suddenly" from "Les Miserables."

The Globes will be presented Sunday at the Beverly Hilton Hotel.



Kimmel

Kimmel beats Letterman in 1st night head-to-head

NEW YORK (AP)—TV's "Jimmy Kimmel Live" has gotten a warm welcome on its first night airing 30 minutes earlier.

ABC's Kimmel went head-to-head Tuesday for the first time against CBS' "Late Show with David Letterman" and NBC's "Tonight Show with Jay Leno." According to Nielsen fast ratings, Kimmel edged out Letterman and ran slightly behind

Leno in total viewers.

Tuesday's "Jimmy Kimmel Live" was seen by roughly 3 million viewers, only 177,000 fewer than the audience for the "Tonight Show." It beat "Late Show" by 115,000 viewers.

"Jimmy Kimmel Live" scored its second-largest audience ever

while exceeding the average audience in its previous berth by 59 percent.

"Jimmy Kimmel Live" previously aired at 12 a.m. EST (0500 GMT), after "Nightline." It now airs for an hour beginning at

11:35 a.m. (0435 GMT), followed by "Nightline."

Tina Fey, Amy Poehler ready for Golden Globes

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Tina Fey and Amy Poehler are ready to crack each other up at the Golden Globe Awards.

The two multi-hyphenate talents offered a taste of their quick-witted banter on a conference call with reporters Wednesday, during which Fey

promised, "We're going to sing the whole show."

Fey also joked that she would wear costumes from each of the nominated films. Poehler said she planned to "pub-crawl my way to the venue" and catch a "blackout nap" before the ceremony.

Both women are also nominees for actress in a TV comedy for starring in the shows they write and produce. Fey is up for "30 Rock," while Poehler got the nod for "Parks and Recreation."

The Golden Globes will be broadcast live Sunday on NBC.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Tom Cruise says making movies is still fun

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Even though he turned 50 last summer and has been a Hollywood star for three decades, Tom Cruise says he still has fun making movies. Cruise was in Seoul on Thursday to promote "Jack Reacher," a thriller adapting Lee Child's novel "One Shot," part of the best-selling series about a mysterious ex-military investigator. Appearing at a news conference with director Christopher McQuarrie and co-star Rosamund Pike, Cruise said, "It was so much fun making the film." Pike, who played Bond girl Miranda Frost in "Die Another Day" in 2002, said she and Cruise enjoyed good on-

screen chemistry—something "she never thought" she'd say. It was Cruise's fifth trip to South Korea, where "Jack Reacher" opens next Thursday. Cruise was in Tokyo on Wednesday for the film's Japan premiere.

Black Keys, fun., Rihanna to perform at Grammys

NEW YORK (AP)—The Black Keys and fun. will make their debut on the Grammy stage next month. The Recording Academy announced Wednesday that the multiple Grammy nominees will perform at the awards, airing live on CBS on Feb. 10. Nominees Mumford & Sons, Taylor Swift and Rihanna will also perform. Leading the nominees

with six nominations each are The Black Keys' Dan Auerbach, fun., Kanye West, Frank Ocean, Mumford & Sons and Jay-Z. Fun. is nominated in all major categories, including best new artist and song, record and album of the year. Fun. will compete for album of the year with Ocean, Mumford & Sons, the Black Keys and Jack White. The 55th annual Grammy Awards will be hosted by LL Cool J.

Zsa Zsa Gabor's husband extended as conservator

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A judge says Zsa Zsa Gabor's husband should remain the ailing actress' conservator until at least August. Los Angeles Su-

perior Court Judge Reva Goetz ruled Wednesday that Frederic von Anhalt must provide an accounting of Gabor's assets. An attorney appointed to oversee Gabor's interests says in a report that von Anhalt has generally done a good job caring for his wife. The report noted he used some of Gabor's money to pay his personal expenses, but it had been repaid. His attorney declined to discuss the amount.

The 95-year-old actress has been in a conservatorship since July. Her daughter Francesca Hilton has questioned whether von Anhalt was properly caring for her mother and her finances. Her attorney Kenneth Kosoff says he is seeking more details on Gabor's medical care.

WINNERS' LIST

Movie: "The Hunger Games"
Movie actor: Robert Downey, Jr.
Movie actress: Jennifer Lawrence
Action movie: "The Hunger Games"
Action movie star: Chris Hemsworth
Face of heroism: Jennifer Lawrence, "The Hunger Games"
Comedic movie: "Ted"
Comedic movie actor: Adam Sandler
Comedic movie actress: Jennifer Aniston
Dramatic movie: "The Perks of Being a Wallflower"
Dramatic movie actor: Zac Efron
Dramatic movie actress: Emma Watson
Movie franchise: "The Hunger Games"
Movie superhero: Robert Downey, Jr., "Iron Man"
On-screen chemistry: Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson, and Liam Hemsworth, "The Hunger Games"
Movie icon: Meryl Streep
Network TV comedy: "The Big Bang Theory"
Network TV drama: "Grey's Anatomy"
Cable TV comedy: "Awkward"
Cable TV drama: "Leverage"
Premium cable TV show: "True Blood"
TV crime drama: "Castle"
Sci-fi/fantasy TV show: "Supernatural"
Comedic TV actor: Chris Colfer
Comedic TV actress: Lea Michele
Dramatic TV actor: Nathan Fillion
Dramatic TV actress: Ellen Pompeo
Daytime TV host: Ellen DeGeneres
Late-night talk show host: Jimmy Fallon
New talk show host: Steve Harvey
Competition TV show: "The X Factor"
Celebrity judge: Demi Lovato
Male artist: Jason Mraz
Female artist: Katy Perry
Pop artist: Katy Perry
Hip-hop artist: Nicki Minaj
R&B artist: Rihanna
Band: Maroon 5
Country artist: Taylor Swift
Breakout artists: The Wanted
Song: One Direction, "What Makes You Beautiful"
Album: One Direction, "Up All Night"
Music video: Katy Perry, "Part of Me"
People's voice: Christina Aguilera
Humanitarian: Sandra Bullock

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson

Garfield®



By Jim Davis

Adam@home



By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

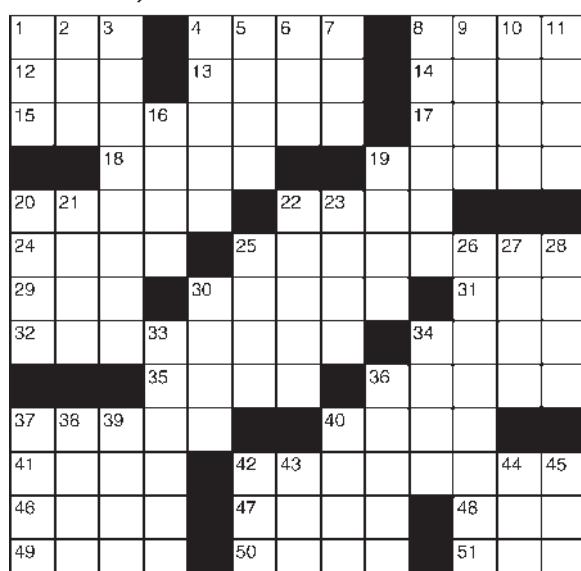
By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	36 "Annie Hall"	2 Story of a lifetime?	20 Come to earth
1 "Grey's Anatomy" network	37 Yuletide	3 Lose warmth	21 Lotion additive
4 Facebook contribu-tion	40 "Buenos —"	4 Old hat	22 Celebrated with a bash
8 Under-goes recession	41 On	5 Job safety	23 Eye part
12 Carnival city	42 Annoy	6 Yon org.	25 Gull's cousin
13 Arthur of tennis	43 For	7 A maiden	26 Cabana's location
14 Portrayal	44 One's own	8 Kennedy brother	27 Not working
15 Place to find a rake	45 Initial chip	9 Mistakes in print	28 Noble gas
17 Cheer	46 Cork out	10 Galosh	30 Coal or gas
18 Bart's sis	47 TV trophy	11 United nations	33 Doubly thick
19 Keep tabs on	50 Require	12 Eve's third son	34 Cabbage salad
20 Tureen	51 Kreskin's	13 Bouncy melody	36 Wasn't well
22 Authorita-tive order	14 Claim	16 Hospital section	37 Eatery
24 Oodles	DOWN	19	38 Teeny bit
25 Diamond-back, e.g.	1 Illustra-tions		39 Wander
29 Present			40 Be overly fond of
30 Stinky			42 Enthusi-ast
31 Praise in verse			43 Individual
32 False teeth			44 — the season ...
34 Unaccom-panied			45 With it, once
35 Make one's way			

Solution time: 25 mins.



Yesterday's answer 1-11



For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

STUMPED?

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Amanda Peet, 41; Mary J. Blige, 42; Kim Coles, 51; Naomi Judd, 67.

Happy Birthday: Make decisions and move in a direction that suits you instead of doing what everyone else wants you to do. Focus on your talents and you will come up with a suitable way to follow your dream and excel at something you enjoy doing. Don't give in when you should be concentrating on what's best for you. Your numbers are 6, 10, 13, 22, 27, 31, 42.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Wisdom will be required when dealing with superiors or those in a position to influence your future. Listen carefully before you make a motion to quit or to do or say something you may regret. Take care of your health and your finances. ☀

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Relax and enjoy doing the things that make you happy. Getting together with friends or traveling to a destination that is conducive to your peace of mind should be on your agenda. Love is in the stars. ☀

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Focus on getting your finances in order. Deals can be made and dollars saved if you invest wisely. A serious approach to the way you spend and the amount of work you are willing to do will determine your financial future. Assess your situation realistically. ☀

CANCER (June 21-July 22): There will be plenty to balance in both your home and professional dealings. Share your concerns and your plans for the future and you will get

the feedback required to make the best decision. Impulsive action must be avoided. ☀

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You will dazzle the people you meet with your showmanship, but when it comes to getting the opportunity to move ahead, only hard work will win you the right of passage. Talk is cheap. Actions will lead to victory. ☀

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Put greater effort into your image, looks and the way you present what you have to offer. You can mesmerize others if you polish and fine-tune your skills and talents. A little romance should be planned for late in the day. ☀

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't share your thoughts or make a move you think will attract attention or trouble. Problems at home will escalate if you are insensitive to what someone is experiencing. Keep an open mind but don't display your true feelings just yet. ☀

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Share thoughts, travel to visit someone you enjoy spending time with, or make plans to get involved in a community event. It's best to get out and interact with other creative people who can inspire your imagination. Love is on the rise. ☀

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): A lot will depend on how much you have learnt from your past mistakes. Honesty and integrity will weigh heavy when it comes to opening discussions with people looking for a reason to make accusations. Focus on home, family and positive change. ☀

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY



COURTESY 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Emotions will surface and must be dealt with diplomatically in order to avoid an argument with someone you need to get along with. Don't let impulsivity take over even if you do feel threatened by what someone does. Hold your position with dignity. ☀

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): There will be plenty of hidden matters to deal with. Confinement or restriction is apparent if you take a risk. Keep your dealings above board and stick to the game plan you agreed on to avoid being blamed or criticized. ☀

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Share your thoughts in an open forum or participate in a function that allows you to use your skills and expertise while dealing with people likely to need your help in the future. Love is highlighted and better times are ahead. ☀

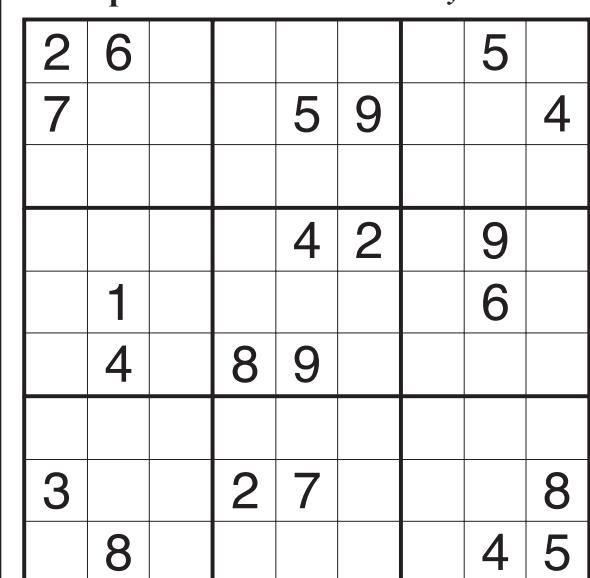
Birthday Baby: You are thoughtful, disciplined and energetic. You are adaptable and compassionate.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

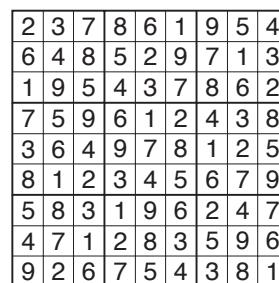
By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

THE RUNNING OF THE BULLS

Solution: 8 letters

E	C	M	R	E	L	E	A	S	D	T	F	I	G
C	C	I	E	L	O	C	K	S	I	H	S	W	N
N	H	N	S	X	T	○	U	○	U	R	U	E	O
A	A	A	E	U	I	M	E	N	D	R	S	N	U
D	R	N	S	F	M	C	D	R	R	F	E	E	R
A	G	S	B	E	T	E	O	A	E	N	H	N	I
R	E	W	R	A	R	H	N	I	O	I	E	A	E
E	A	A	L	I	L	E	H	T	S	W	P	S	I
D	E	T	N	A	D	C	S	T	S	T	T	I	A
E	T	G	S	O	R	E	O	P	E	P	M	O	G
V	A	E	O	E	L	R	A	N	A	E	U	A	W
I	G	W	K	B	I	P	O	A	Y	T	R	O	L
L	R	C	B	C	E	F	M	C	L	B	R	T	R
S	E	O	A	R	O	F	R	A	N	C	E	O	S
N	C	L	N	S	D	R	E	H	P	F	R	O	N

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Balcony, Charge, Chase, Cobblestone, Corral, Crowd, Dance, Daredevils, Direct, Fence, Fiesta, France, Front, Garb, Gate, Group, Herds, Historical, Hordes, Injuries, Iron, Locks, Mexico, Music, Narrow, Neckerchief, Newspaper, Oxen, Pamplona, Patron, Released, Rocket, Sangria, Sing, Small, Spain, Street, Summer, Swat, Thundering, Tour, Town, Wine, Wooden Yesterday's Answer: History

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WHATZIT Solution: Stand by your man

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Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as \$30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	COMBO
(PRINT)	(PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner • 5-Liner	\$15 \$24 \$30 \$45

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



Find today's solution in classified section

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Starting as low as... **\$29.99**
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Call: 233-8855, 483-8866 or 233-8866
\$100 Security Deposit Required
Garapan • Susupe • San Antonio
Some conditions may apply

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Student Laptop Call for more info.
Student Dell LCD only \$70
FREE INSTALLATION
233-5641
Open: Monday-Saturday 9:00AM - 9:00PM

EMPLOYMENT

1 Cook (Korean cuisine): \$5.55/hr. Must be a proficient cook of Korean cuisine. At least 2 years' professional cooking experience in Korean cuisine required. Email resume to chinayanbian@hanmisaipan.com.

EMPLOYMENT

(13) Mason, (5) Carpenter, (1) Plumber, 5 years experience. Email resume to landmark@pticom.com

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Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. \$600/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. \$550. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nighttime security. \$450/mo. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., 1-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. \$250/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. \$450-\$550/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

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SHOP CUSTODIAN
Must understand Mandarin. Experience in customer-related job.

Mail resume to KDC
PMB 1175 Box 10001 Saipan

VACANCY

Marianas Management Corporation is currently seeking for qualified candidates to fill the following position

HVAC-R

Qualification: Must have knowledge of Walk-In Freezer/Chiller and AC System

Please apply in person at the J.C. Tenorio Enterprises, Inc. Human Resources Office Jooten Center, Susupe

Marianas Management Corporation is an equal opportunity employer

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ACCOUNTANT (1) – Must have a Bachelor's degree in Accounting with a minimum of 5 years work related experience, proficient in MS Word, Excel, Peachtree and QuickBooks, knowledge of General Accounting and aviation industry, maintain book of accounts, knows how to prepare Financial Statements, Bank Reconciliation, Bookkeeping, Year End reports, Revenue requirements, Accounts receivables and payables, payroll, withholding tax, FICA, BGRT, excise tax and other work assigned; drop and pick up of customers, booking of charter flights, medical evacuation preparation and directly report to the President. Rate: \$5.55 to \$ 7.50/hr.

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Interested applicants can mail their resume at P.O. Box 7688 SVRB, Saipan, MP 96950 or may email to saipan@americopters.com. No phone calls please.

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Tropical Blendz
(1) Cook/Helper
Salary \$5.55/hr

Must have some cooking experience
Bring your resume to Tropical Blendz
Tel No. 233-8809

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(1) MECHANIC

Please call telephone # 323-0102 and look for Adonis Santos

Marianas Baptist Academy

PO Box 500904 Saipan, MP 96950
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Accountant
Must be a college graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting at least 5 years work experience.

Please submit your resume at MBA Tel No. 234-6508

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For Immediate Hiring

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- must have 2 years experience

Please submit resume to our Garapan Office.
NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

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CLICK IT OR TICKET
DAY & NIGHT

Clippers beat Mavs for 13th home win in row



LOS ANGELES (AP)—Chris Paul had 19 points and 16 assists, and the Los Angeles Clippers held on to beat the Dallas Mavericks 99-93 on Wednesday night, extending their franchise-record home winning streak to 13 games.

Matt Barnes added 19 points off the bench, and Blake Griffin had 15 points and 13 rebounds for the Clippers (29-8), who took sole possession of the NBA's best record from Oklahoma City with their third straight win overall.

Darren Collison scored 22 points for Dallas. O.J. Mayo added 17 and Dirk Nowitzki had 15. At 13-23, the Mavs fell 10 games below .500 for the first time since March 30, 2000, two months after Mark Cuban bought the team. They've lost four in a row overall and three straight on the road, where they are 5-16.

The Clippers led the entire first half, fell behind by 10 points in third quarter and then regained the lead for the first time in the fourth on Paul's steal and layup that made it 82-80.

They took the lead for good on Barnes' 3-pointer that keyed an 8-0 run. Los Angeles forced former Clipper Chris Kaman into two misses while Collison airballed another shot in that stretch as the Clippers went ahead 90-83.

Nowitzki's jumper pulled Dallas to 95-93. Griffin hit a turnaround jumper to give the Clippers a four-point lead before Collison missed a 3-pointer in the right corner.

Caron Butler came up with two big offensive rebounds off consecutive misses by Griffin and Paul with 39 seconds left. After taking two timeouts, Paul missed an 18-footer with 24 seconds left and Dallas called timeout. Collison scrambled looking for a shot before he passed to Vince Carter, who missed.

Paul got fouled and made both shots for a 99-93 lead while fans chanted "MVP!"

Thunder 106, Timberwolves 84

In Oklahoma City, Kevin Durant scored 26 points and Russell Westbrook added 23 to help Oklahoma City overpower outmanned Minnesota.

After losing its last game on a buzzer-beater against a last-place Washington team saddled by injuries to its three top players, Oklahoma City left nothing to chance with the Timberwolves missing All-Star forward Kevin Love and four others.

The Thunder stretched the lead to 24 before pulling the starters with 5:44 to go.

Alexey Shved scored 18 points for Minnesota, which announced earlier in the day that Love would miss eight to 10 weeks after breaking his right hand for the second time.

Spurs 108, Lakers 105

In San Antonio, Tony Parker scored 24 points to help San Antonio hand slumping Los Angeles to its fifth straight loss.

Manu Ginobili added 19 points and Tiago Splitter and Stephen Jackson had 14 each for San Antonio, which has won 11 straight at home.

Kobe Bryant had 27 points, Metta World Peace added 23 and Earl Clark 22 for Los Angeles. Bryant was 10 for 24 from the field, missing a 3-pointer on his final attempt that would have tied the game. Clark missed a follow-up 3 off a long rebound.

Coming off a 125-112 loss at Houston on Tuesday, the Lakers fought until the final buzzer.

Celtics 87, Suns 79

In Boston, Jeff Green scored 14 points, rookie Jared Sullinger added 12 points and 16 rebounds, and Boston recovered from a dreadful third quarter, rallying in the fourth to beat Phoenix.

The Celtics survived a scoring drought that spanned almost half of the third quarter, scoring just 14 in the period before regaining the lead and taking command against the road-weary Suns, who fell to 2-16 away from home with their 11th straight road loss.

Jason Terry added 13 points as Boston's reserves outscored Phoenix's 47-16. Kevin Garnett was the only Boston starter to score in double figures, finishing with 10 points and five rebounds.

Jared Dudley scored 14 points and Marcin Gortat had 12 points and 14 rebounds for the Suns.

Bucks 104, Bulls 96

In Chicago, Brandon Jennings scored 20 of his 35 points in the third quarter and Milwaukee beat Chicago for its second consecutive victory under interim coach Jim Boylan.

Mike Dunleavy had 16 points and Monta Ellis finished with 14 for Milwaukee, which made 10 of 22 3-point attempts. Larry Sanders grabbed 12 rebounds and blocked seven shots.

Carlos Boozer had 22 points and 11 rebounds for the Bulls, who have dropped their last two games against Milwaukee at the United Center. The Bulls blew a 27-point lead in the third quarter as Milwaukee snapped a nine-game losing streak against Chicago with a 93-92 victory on Nov. 26.

Boozer has recorded a double-double in six consecutive games.

Hornets 88, Rockets 79

In New Orleans, Roger Mason scored 15 of his 17 points in the fourth quarter to rally New Orleans to a victory over Houston.

Greivis Vasquez and Jason Smith each scored 17 points for the Hornets, who have won three in a row for the first time this season. Robin Lopez added 14 points for New Orleans.

James Harden scored 25 points for the Rockets, who had won 10 of 12. Harden, who was held to three points in the final quarter when the Rockets were outscored 28-10, was the only Houston player in double figures.

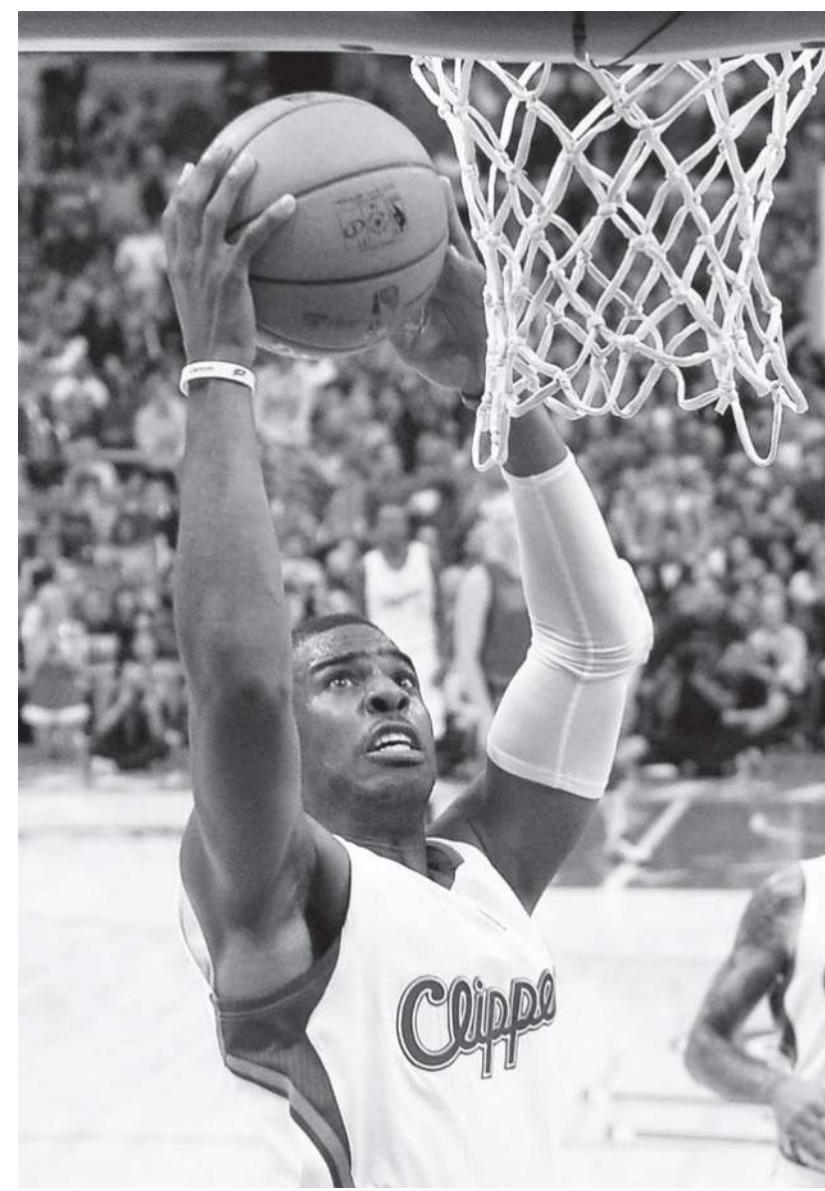
NBA suspends Anthony 1 game for postgame actions

NEW YORK (AP)—Carmelo Anthony was suspended one game by the NBA on Wednesday for confronting Kevin Garnett after the New York Knicks' loss to Boston on Monday.

Anthony, who was angry about Garnett's choice of words during a fourth-quarter altercation, went toward the Celtics' locker room after the game and later waited for Garnett outside Boston's team bus.

Anthony didn't believe he would be suspended because he said he was just looking to talk to Garnett, not fight. But NBA executive vice president of operations Stu Jackson ruled otherwise.

"There are no circumstances in which it is acceptable for a player to



Los Angeles Clippers guard Chris Paul goes up for a shot during the second half of their NBA basketball game against the Dallas Mavericks, Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2013, in Los Angeles.

Eric Gordon struggled with five points on 2-of-12 shooting for the Hornets.

Grizzlies 94, Warriors 87

In Oakland, California, Zach Randolph had 19 points and 12 rebounds, Rudy Gay scored 18 points and Memphis completed a 3-0 road trip with a victory over Golden State.

Mike Conley added 16 points and Marc Gasol finished with 12 points and nine rebounds to help Memphis make its quick West Coast swing more memorable. The Grizzlies (23-10) also won at Phoenix on Sunday and at Sacramento on Monday.

Stephen Curry scored 24 points and Klay Thompson had 20 points, seven rebounds and seven assists as the Warriors (22-12) lost back-to-back games

for only the second time this season.

The Warriors were coming off their most lopsided loss of the season, 115-89 to the Clippers.

Nuggets 108, Magic 105

In Denver, Kenneth Faried scored 19 points and grabbed 19 rebounds to help Denver rally for a win over slumping Orlando.

Ty Lawson also finished with 19 points, including a three-point play with 1:27 remaining that gave the Nuggets the lead for good and sent them to their third straight win.

Orlando just can't get on track since Glen Davis went out with a sprained left shoulder, dropping a 10th straight game in the big man's absence. He currently isn't with the team but it was hoped he might rejoin them at some point during

me and Garnett, it happened, can't take that away," Anthony added. "I lost my cool yesterday, I accept that, but there's just certain things that push certain people's buttons."

Anthony was clearly affected by Garnett, shooting just 6 of 26 from the field after averaging 36 points last week while winning Eastern Conference player of the week honors. He said the All-Star forwards eventually spoke and sorted out the matter.

Anthony will be eligible to return Friday at home against Chicago. He was ejected from the last meeting with the Bulls after receiving two of his eight technical fouls this season.

Garnett was not penalized.

the current four-game trip.

Jameer Nelson led the Magic with 20 points and Arron Afflalo added 12 against his former team.

Jazz 112, Bobcats 102

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Al Jefferson had 26 points and eight rebounds to lead Utah to its fourth win in five games with a victory over Charlotte.

The Bobcats had no answer for the 6-foot-10 Jefferson, who went 11 of 15 from the field.

Paul Millsap chipped in with 19 points and Gordon Hayward was 4 of 5 from 3-point range for 14 points as the Jazz made light work of the Bobcats' zone defense, shooting 54 percent from the field.

Ben Gordon led six Bobcats in double figures, scoring 20 points. Michael Kidd-Gilchrist had 15 points and eight rebounds, while Gerald Henderson, Ramon Sessions and Kemba Walker each had 14 points for Charlotte.

Raptors 90, 76ers 72

In Toronto, Amir Johnson had 19 points and 12 rebounds, Jose Calderon added 14 points and 11 assists, and Toronto beat Philadelphia, sending the slumping 76ers to their fifth straight loss.

Landry Fields set season highs with 10 points and 11 rebounds. DeMar DeRozan scored 19 and Ed Davis had 17 for the Raptors, who had lost six of their previous seven meetings with Philadelphia, including three straight.

True Holiday and Thaddeus Young each scored 16 points, and Evan Turner had 10 as the Sixers lost for the 13th time in their last 16 games. Philadelphia has played 12 of its past 16 on the road, winning just twice.

Cavaliers 99, Hawks 83

In Cleveland, Kyrie Irving scored 18 of his 33 points in the third quarter to lead injury-riddled Cleveland over Atlanta.

Irving's big night came at a perfect time for Cleveland, which had lost five of six overall and six straight at home. The margin of victory was Cleveland's biggest of the season.

Josh Smith scored 17 points to lead Atlanta, which has lost a season-worst four straight.

Alonzo Gee scored 15 points for Cleveland, while Tristan Thompson added 11 points and 14 rebounds. Rookie Tyler Zeller scored 11 points and had a career-high 12 rebounds.

Jeff Teague added 15 points and Al Horford scored 14 for Atlanta.

Steroids fallout: No BB Hall for Bonds, Clemens



NEW YORK (AP)— No one was elected to the Hall of Fame this year. When voters closed the doors to Barry Bonds, Roger Clemens and Sammy Sosa, they also shut out everybody else.

For only the second time in four decades, baseball writers failed to give any player the 75 percent required for induction to Cooperstown, sending a powerful signal that stars of the Steroids Era will be held to a different standard.

All the awards and accomplishments collected over long careers by Bonds, Clemens and Sosa could not offset suspicions those feats were boosted by performance-enhancing drugs.

Voters also denied entry Wednesday to fellow newcomers Craig Biggio, Mike Piazza and Curt Schilling, along with holdovers Jack Morris, Jeff Bagwell and Lee Smith.

Among the most honored players of their generation, these standouts won't find their images among the 300 bronze plaques on the oak walls in Cooperstown, where—at least for now—the doors appear to be bolted shut on any one tainted by PEDs.

"After what has been written and said over the last few years I'm not overly surprised," Clemens said in a statement he posted on Twitter.

Bonds, Clemens and Sosa retired after the 2007 season. They were eligible for the Hall for the first time and have up to 14 more years on the writers' ballot.

"Curt Schilling made a good point, everyone was guilty. Either you used PEDs, or you did nothing to stop their use," Hall of Famer Mike Schmidt said in an email to The Associated Press after this year's vote was announced. "This generation got rich. Seems there was a price to pay."

Biggio, 20th on the career list with 3,060 hits, appeared on 68.2 percent of the 569 ballots, the highest total but 39 votes shy. The three newcomers with the highest profiles failed to come close to even majority support, with Clemens at 37.6 percent, Bonds at 36.2 and Sosa at 12.5.

Other top vote-getters were Morris (67.7), Jeff Bagwell (59.6), Piazza (57.8), Tim Raines (52.2), Lee Smith (47.8) and Schilling (38.8).

"I'm kind of glad that nobody got in this year," Hall of Famer Al Kaline said. "I feel honored to be in the Hall of Fame. And I would've felt a little uneasy sitting up there on the stage, listening to some of these new guys talk about how great they were. ... I don't know how great some of these players up for election would've been without drugs. But to me, it's cheating."

At ceremonies in Cooperstown on



AP

In this Monday, June 18, 2012 file photo, former Major League Baseball pitcher Roger Clemens pauses as he speaks to the media outside federal court in Washington, after he was acquitted on all charges by a jury that decided that he didn't lie to Congress when he denied using performance-enhancing drugs. Clemens' acquittal was one of the top sports stories of 2012.

July 28, the only inductees will be three men who died more than 70 years ago: Yankees owner Jacob Ruppert, umpire Hank O'Day and barehanded catcher Deacon White. They were chosen last month by the 16-member panel considering individuals from the era before integration in 1947.

"It is a dark day," said Jose Canseco, the former AL MVP who was among the first players to admit using steroids. "I think the players should organize some type of lawsuit against major league baseball or the writers. It's ridiculous. Most of these players really have no evidence against them. They've never tested positive or they've cleared themselves like Roger Clemens."

It was the eighth time the BBWAA failed to elect any players. There were four fewer votes than last year and five members submitted blank ballots.

"With 53 percent you can get to the White House, but you can't get to Cooperstown," BBWAA secretary-treasurer Jack O'Connell said. "It's the 75 percent that makes it difficult."

There have been calls for the voting to be taken away from the writers and be given to a more diverse electorate that would include players and broadcasters. The Hall says it is content with the process, which began in 1936.

"It takes time for history to sort itself out, and I'm not surprised we had a shutout today," Hall President Jeff Idelson said. "I wish we had an electee. I will say that, but I'm not surprised given how volatile this era has been in terms of assessing the qualities and the quantities of the statistics and the impact on the game these players have had."

Bonds, baseball's only seven-time Most Valuable Player, hit 762 home runs, including a record 73 in 2001. He was indicted on charges he lied to a grand jury in 2003 when he denied using PEDs but a jury two years ago failed to reach a verdict on three counts he made false statements and convicted him on one obstruction of justice count, finding he gave an evasive answer.

"It is unimaginable that the best player to ever play the game would not be a unanimous first-ballot selection," said Jeff Borris of the Beverly Hills Sports Council, Bonds' longtime agent.

Clemens, the only seven-time Cy Young Award winner, is third in career strikeouts (4,672) and ninth in wins (354). He was acquitted last year on one count of obstruction of Congress, three counts of making false statements to Congress and two counts of perjury, all stemming from

his denials of drug use.

"To those who did take the time to look at the facts," Clemens said, "we very much appreciate it."

Sosa, eighth with 609 home runs, was among those who tested positive in MLB's 2003 anonymous survey, The New York Times reported in 2009. He told a congressional committee in 2005 that he never took illegal performance-enhancing drugs.

Since 1961, the only years the writers didn't elect a candidate had been when Yogi Berra topped the 1971 vote by appearing on 67 percent of the ballots cast and when Phil Niekro headed the 1996 ballot at 68 percent - both got in the following years. The other BBWAA elections without a winner were in 1945, 1946, 1950, 1958 and 1960.

Morris will make his final ballot appearance next year, when fellow pitchers Greg Maddux and Tom Glavine are eligible for the first time along with slugger Frank Thomas.

"Next year, I think you'll have a rather large class, and this year, for whatever reasons, you had a couple of guys come really close," Commissioner Bud Selig said at the owners' meetings in Paradise Valley, Ariz. "This is not to be voted to make sure that somebody gets in every year. It's to be voted on

to make sure that they're deserving. I respect the writers as well as the Hall itself. This idea that this somehow diminishes the Hall or baseball is just ridiculous in my opinion."

Players' union head Michael Weiner called the vote "unfortunate, if not sad."

"To ignore the historic accomplishments of Barry Bonds and Roger Clemens, for example, is hard to justify. Moreover, to penalize players exonerated in legal proceedings—and others never even implicated—is simply unfair. The Hall of Fame is supposed to be for the best players to have ever played the game. Several such players were denied access to the Hall today. Hopefully this will be rectified by future voting."

The BBWAA election rules say "voting shall be based upon the player's record, playing ability, integrity, sportsmanship, character, and contributions to the team(s) on which the player played."

An Associated Press survey of 112 eligible voters conducted in late November after the ballot was announced indicated Bonds, Clemens and Sosa would fall well short of 50 percent. The big three drew even less support than that as the debate raged over who was Hall worthy.

Voters are writers who have been members of the BBWAA for 10 consecutive years at any point.

BBWAA president Susan Slusser of the San Francisco Chronicle said she didn't vote for Bonds, Clemens or Sosa.

"The evidence for steroid use is too strong," she said.

As for Biggio, "I'm surprised he didn't get in."

Mark McGwire, 10th on the career home run list with 583, received 16.9 percent on his seventh try, down from 19.5 last year. He got 23.7 percent in 2010—a vote before he admitted using steroids and human growth hormone.

Rafael Palmeiro, among just four players with 500 homers and 3,000 hits along with Hank Aaron, Willie Mays and Eddie Murray, received 8.8 percent in his third try, down from 12.6 percent last year. Palmeiro received a 10-day suspension in 2005 for a positive test for performance-enhancing drugs, claiming it was due to a vitamin vial given to him by teammate Miguel Tejada.

MLB.com's Hal Bodley, the former baseball columnist for USA Today, said Biggio and others paid the price for other players using PEDs.

"They got caught in the undertow of the steroids thing," he said.

Bodley said this BBWAA vote was a "loud and clear" message on the steroids issue. He said he couldn't envision himself voting for stars linked to drugs.

"We've a forgiving society, I know that," he said. "But I have too great a passion for the sport."

NHL owners approve new labor deal; players to vote



NEW YORK (AP)— NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman secured unanimous ownership support for the pending labor deal, then apologized to everyone hurt by the long lockout and said he isn't going anywhere.

The league's board of governors met in a Manhattan hotel Wednesday and overwhelmingly approved the agreement that was reached ear-

ly Sunday on the 113th day of the lockout.

Bettman felt the full brunt of anger, especially from fans, during the four-month dispute that kept hockey off the ice. But he was contrite in announcing the latest step by the owners. He said he wants to look forward and not back at the mess created by the work stoppage.

"Most importantly to our fans, who love and have missed NHL hockey, I

am sorry," Bettman said. "I know that an explanation or an apology will not erase the hard feelings that have built up over the past few months, but I owe you an apology nevertheless."

"As commissioner of the National Hockey League it sometimes falls upon me to make tough decisions that disappoint and occasionally anger players and fans. This was a long and extremely difficult negotiation—one that took a lot longer than anybody

wanted. I know it caused frustration, disappointment and even suffering to a lot of people who have supported the National Hockey League in many different ways."

In his nearly 20 years as commissioner, Bettman has presided over three lockouts. One caused the cancellation of the 2004-05 season, another led to a 48-game season in 1995—much like is expected for this season.

The latest lockout wiped out 510

games. Overall, 2,208 games have been lost by labor disputes during his tenure. But Bettman was quick to call any speculation he might consider stepping down from his post as "unfounded."

"I am looking forward to continuing to grow this game, both on and off the ice, as we have over the last 20 years," he said. "I think the opportunities are great, and I am excited to be a part of them."

Doctor optimistic after Redskins' RG3 knee surgery



WASHINGTON (AP)—If Adrian Peterson can do it, maybe Robert Griffin III can, too.

Peterson set an incredible standard this season for NFL players returning from major knee surgery, nearly breaking the NFL single-season rushing record. Griffin need look nowhere else for an inspiration as the Washington Redskins quarterback begins the road back from an operation Wednesday on two ligaments in his right knee.

"I think it gives motivation to everyone," said Russ Paine, a physical therapist in Houston who worked with the Peterson as the Minnesota Vikings running back went through rehab.

Griffin had his lateral collateral ligament repaired and his ACL reconstructed for a second time. The surgery was performed in Florida by orthopedist James Andrews, who was optimistic that Griffin would be back on the field this fall.

"We expect a full recovery, and it is everybody's hope and belief that due to Robert's high motivation, he will be ready for the 2013 season," Andrews said in a statement released by the Redskins. "The goal of his treatment is to give him the best opportunity for a long professional career."

But no two athletes—or knee surgeries, for that matter—are exactly alike, so pinning down a date for Griffin's return is an inexact science. Complicating matters is that Griffin tore the ACL in the same knee in 2009 while playing for Baylor.

University of Maryland head team physician Craig Bennett said football players typically need seven to 11 months

Eagles interview Notre Dame's Kelly

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—The Philadelphia Eagles interviewed Notre Dame coach Brian Kelly for their coaching vacancy, a person familiar with the meeting told The Associated Press.

Kelly was the third college coach Philadelphia interviewed since firing Andy Reid on Dec. 31. The person, speaking on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to release the information, said the Eagles met with Kelly on Tuesday.

Penn State's Bill O'Brien and Oregon's Chip Kelly interviewed with the Eagles last week, but chose to stay at their schools.

The Eagles have interviewed six candidates and plan to meet with four others.

Kelly recently called coaching Notre Dame his "dream job," but he wouldn't be the first to explore his

to return from a second ACL reconstruction, but that it often takes up to a year for the ligament to be fully healed.

"Typically your first season back from an ACL reconstruction, there's a tendency to have some struggles from time to time," Bennett said.

That's what made Peterson so remarkable. He tore an ACL in late December 2011 and was the league's best back in 2012.

Paine said Peterson's focus and intensity in rehab and natural athletic gifts made the quick recovery possible. Many say Griffin has those same qualities, and he was sounding an upbeat

options, perhaps even to get a raise to stay put.

News of the interview comes just two days after Notre Dame lost to Alabama in the BCS national championship game, a 42-14 Tide blowout that was a sour ending to the Fighting Irish season.

Notre Dame had won its first 12 games, raising hope among its fervent fans that the program was back among the elite after years of mediocrity.

Just a year ago, Notre Dame athletic director Jack Swarbrick gave Kelly a two-year contract extension to keep him with the Fighting Irish through the 2016 season. Terms have not been released.

Kelly was hired in December 2009, getting a five-year deal. He left an undefeated Cincinnati team that was ranked No. 4 at the time. Fans liked his approach and his resume,

tone on Twitter even before the surgery began early Wednesday morning.

"Thank you for your prayers and support. I love God, my family, my team, the fans, & I love this game. See you guys next season," Griffin tweeted.

While Griffin heals, the debate will continue as to whether he should have been on the field when he hurt the knee for a final time in the fourth quarter Sunday's playoff loss to the Seattle Seahawks.

Griffin reinjured his knee in the first quarter and was obviously hobbled, but he stayed in the game after convincing coach Mike Shanahan that all was OK.

"People can limp around; people can

which included improved records at Division II Grand Valley State, Central Michigan and Cincinnati.

He has done the same thing in South Bend, begging the question of whether he is ready so soon to make a fresh move, this time to the NFL, or is perhaps trying to parlay a better contract out of Notre Dame.

It wouldn't be the first time that's happened to the Eagles during this search.

Regardless of any candidate's intentions, the Eagles have proceeded slowly.

General manager Howie Roseman, owner Jeffrey Lurie and president Don Smolenski plan to meet with former Chicago Bears coach Lovie Smith on Thursday.

"Jeffrey has been very adamant with us that the key is getting the right guy," Roseman said in an interview on the team's Web site. "The key isn't getting the right guy as quickly as possible, so that's what we're going to do."

be hurting," Hall of Fame quarterback and ESPN analyst Steve Young said Wednesday. "Some of the great John Wayne hero things that have ever happened in football happened because people play hurt."

The first major injury to Griffin's knee was the torn ACL in the third game of the 2009 season with Baylor, when he was hurt on the opening drive against Northwestern State but kept playing until halftime. Griffin missed the rest of the year but returned in 2010 and won the Heisman Trophy in 2011.

Griffin's first notable injury in the pros was a concussion early this season, which

led the quarterback to learn to protect his body better while running the ball.

But last month, at the end of a 13-yard scramble, he sprained the LCL when he was hit by Baltimore Ravens defensive tackle Haloti Ngata. Griffin missed one game and returned to play in three more while wearing a bulky knee brace, his mobility clearly hindered.

On Sunday, Griffin hurt the knee again as he fell awkwardly while throwing a pass late in the first quarter against the Seahawks. He was mostly ineffective the rest of the game, completing only four passes after that drive.

Griffin finally departed with 6:19 to play in the game, after the knee buckled while he was trying to field a bad shotgun snap.

The No. 2 overall pick in last year's draft, Griffin was one of several rookie quarterbacks to make an instant impact on the NFL this season. He set the league record for best season passer rating by a rookie QB and led the Redskins to their first NFC East title in 13 years.

Griffin's knee has kept the nation's capital on tenterhooks all week. He was hurt Sunday. Then Shanahan announced Monday that a second opinion was needed.

Then on Tuesday came word that surgery would be taking place. Wednesday was the actual surgery. While it was taking place, District of Columbia Mayor Vincent Gray said he will invite Griffin to watch President Barack Obama's inaugural parade on a reviewing stand outside the district government building later this month.

"I'd love to have him come, but ... he obviously may be unable. His mobility may be impaired somewhat at that point," Gray said. "My focus right now is on having him successfully get through the surgery."

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DIAL
Rent-to-Own

Proa, Blue Haus still spotless in QQ caging

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

QQ
CAR RENTAL
BASKETBALL CUP

Northern Marianas College/Lions Club Proa torched OCM Corp., 79-39, and Blue Haus nosed out KB/ABCD II Mart, 73-72, as the 3rd QQ Car Rental Basketball Cup season continued last Wednesday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Both teams remained flawless after two games, while KB Mart evened out to a 1-1 slate and OCM is still searching for its first win after two tries.

The season continues tonight in Garapan with Mobil (1-1) taking on OCM Corp. at 6:30pm followed by Kentucky Fried Chicken/Taco Bell (0-2) versus KB Mart at 8:30pm. Six teams make up the field.

Proa darted off to a promising 20-6 favor from the tip as a handful of players chipped in on the offensive end.

OCM's engine stalled at the get-go and its struggles continued into the second quarter. They only managed two baskets in the period, while Proa cannoned out to a 41-10 separation at halftime.

Seven Proa players scored in the frame with Jack Lizama and Lorio Pagaraao accounting for 18 points.

Thanks to the 30-point gap for Proa at midpoint, the match was all but over from there.

Amigo Golf Club season opener this Sunday at Kingfisher

LOPEZ
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The Amigo Golf Club has announced the start of its 2013 season is scheduled for this Sunday at Kingfisher Golf Links in Talafofo.



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

NCM/Lions Club Proa's Lorio Pagaraao attempts an acrobatic shot against OCM Corp.'s J.R. Barrios during their 3rd QQ Car Rental Basketball Cup matchup last Wednesday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Tee time is set for noon and the group is planning to hold a meeting after conclusion of the round. Topics of discussion include the season event schedule in addition to a number of other

important issues.

There are over 20 active Amigo members and new players are always welcome.

Both men and women compete against one another in a handicap-

ing Japan's Shino Kanno and Momo Takahashi, 6-1, 6-4.

In the top half of the draw, No. 1 pick Katherine Campbell and Jacinta Pang of Australia and No. 4 seed Kayla Donovan and Georgina Jansen took Final Four berth after surviving their foes in three sets. Campbell and Pang won over compatriot Annabel Jaskiewicz and Micaela McKimmie, 5-7, 6-3, 10-8, while Donovan and Jansen also recovered from an opening set loss to thwart Caitlin Conradie and Darlyhne Lillico, 6-7, 6-2, 10-4.

While the U16 doubles event in Wodonga are about to end, singles action has yet to start with Lopez and company

scheduled to play their first game today. Lopez is pitted against McKimmie and a win will move her to the quarterfinal round of the 16-player field.

Meanwhile, Tammy Ackerman also has yet to play her first round match in the U14 singles. She is set to collide against Kelbie Bairstow in the upper half of the 32-player draw.

While Ackerman is waiting for her singles assignment, she completed her doubles stint in the Victorian tournament and lost in the quarterfinals. Ackerman and partner Emma Adelaide Graham bowed to top-ranked Alana Bourgeois and Samantha Nyika, 0-6, 1-6, yesterday.

Malwelbug finished with a game-high 24 points, while MCS' Camacho led three others in double figures with 14.

MISO basketball continues today at the MHS Gym with the MHS Dolphins debuting against EUCON at 5:30pm preceded by a 4pm junior varsity endeavor between MHS and Agape Christian School.

In related news, the MISO

girls volleyball season was abruptly halted by an untimely power outage last Tuesday. The first set of pairings was completed and results of those matches and today's round of games will be released tomorrow. MISO organizers also completed its coaches clinic for the upcoming girls soccer season, which is set to start up on Tuesday.

KHS 83 – Malwelbug 24, Lampkin 20, Je Santos 19, Jo Santos 8, Limes 4, Polino 4, Ja Santos 4.

MCS 80 – Camacho 14, Ogasawara 13, Taguchi 13, Amog 12, Evangelista 8, Saludez 8, Son 8, Jung 2, Yamaga 2.

Scoring by quarters: 15-16, 36-21, 60-42, 72-72, 83-80 (OT).

though OCM finally got its offense to show up a little against the opposing bench.

Lizama led the field with 20 points, while OCM's Zack Diaz finished as his team's only double-digit scorer with 10.

In the second match, Blue Haus got off to a strong start and worked out a 23-18 advantage in the first quarter. Blue Haus' Bruce Berline, Noel David, Junar Guiab, Pandu Muleta, and Brendon Talaania all bagged 4 points in the exchange.

KB Mart kept chomping at the bit, however, and turned the table on its rival, 41-38, at intermission with physical play in the paint that earned them markers from the stripe. Bernard Aquino's 9 points led the group in the first half.

KB Mart maintained control through the third period, 58-54, but Blue Haus had an ace up its sleeve heading into the last canto.

The latter's Elmer Esdrelon was a non-factor in the first half and though he was held to just 2 baskets in the third stanza, he erupted in the clutch with 17 points that pulled the heart out of the KB squad.

Esdrelon nailed three treys in the process and accounted for all but one of his team's baskets down the homestretch. His teammates, meanwhile, backed him up with some stingy defense. Esdrelon fin-

ished with 21 points to lead Blue Haus, while Tim Wesley fronted KB Mart with 17.

41-10, 61-26, 79-39.

Second Game

Blue Haus 73 – Esdrelon 21,

Guiaab 12, Talania 10, Muleta 8, Santos 5, Galarse 5, Berline 4, David 4, Tumaquip 4.

KB/ABCD II Mart 72 –

Wesley 17, Aquino 13, Fital 9, De Dios 8, Paraiso 7, Basa 7, Lizama 6, Acosta 3, Norita 2.

Scoring by quarters: 23-18, 38-41, 54-58, 73-72.

Swim time trial meet tomorrow

Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation will hold its first competition of the year with the staging of the NMISF Time Trial Meet tomorrow at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

The meet is divided into two parts with the first session running from 9am to 11am and the afternoon races slated from 3pm to 5pm. Warm-ups are set for 8am to 9am and 2pm to 3pm. There will be six events in the morning session: 50m butterfly, 100m breaststroke, 100m butterfly, 200m freestyle, 50m backstroke, 200m individual medley, and 400m freestyle. For the afternoon session, swimmers will compete in the 50m breast-

stroke, 100m backstroke, 50m and 100m freestyle, 200m backstroke, and 100m breaststroke.

Tomorrow's event is the second NMISF-hosted competition for the 2012-2013 season after the federation kicked off the season with a meet in September. Just like NMISF's season-opening tournament, times in this weekend's meet will be considered for CNMI records.

Swimmers from both Saipan Swim Club and Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center are invited to the weekend tournament and participants can compete in as many events they want to. Entry fee to each event is only \$3. (*Saipan Tribune*)

J. LEAGUE

From Page 32

who initially planned a short visit to Saipan with his family.

The Yamanakas arrived on island on Jan. 3 and Akira decided to take time out from touring Saipan to share his expertise with U12 players from Tan Holdings FC, Paire FC, MP United, Shirley's FC, and Matansa FC.

Anthony Fruit, who plays for Paire FC, said he was fortunate to attend a clinic conducted by an experienced coach from the Japanese pro league.

"We have to take this opportunity and make the most of it. I learned a lot from him even if the clinic was held for just a short time," said Fruit after completing the one and a half hour session.

Fruit, Yarawee Ythemar, Ed-

win Kim, Vince Alcantara, Carmelino Garcia, Kjohn Jacob Canape, John Robert Tam, Albert Bergancia, Matthew Ong, Wataru Tajima, Makie Binalay, Euin Kin Byen, David Park, Alex Kim, Daniel Park, Mareko Tekopua, James Garcia, and Jherico Tiamzon received certificates of attendance at the end of the clinic with Yamanaka handing them to each player.

Tan Holdings coach Jershwin Angeles, Shirley's FC player Fradel Sedillo, and MP United striker Kennedy Izuka assisted Yamanaka in conducting the clinic.

"It was a fun and learning experience for the U12 players and also for us coaches/players. We were able to see drills, which we can use in our own training sessions. Also, this clinic is very timely as our youth players are preparing for the 2013 season," Angeles said. (*Saipan Tribune*)

CAMACHO

From Page 32

147, and 179 in the first seven games.

Fabie made the last cut in the qualifier with her third-best 1,281 pinfalls. She had her best showing in Game 4 (180 pinfalls) and averaged 160.13 after collecting 148, 167, 179, 154, 143, 132, and 178 in the seven other games.

Eight other female keglers, including back-to-back champion Gloria Omechelang, missed the next round of the season-ending tournament. Omechelang earned only 1,167 pinfalls and finished seventh behind Carol McKenzie and Elena Soll, who tied for fourth and fifth with their similar 1,247 pinfalls, and Cora Muna (1,222). Others eliminated after the eight-game qualifier were Carrie Camacho (1,149), Gigi Zapanta (1,145), Lala Taitano (1,138), and Diane Chong (1,078).

Villavicencio, who figured in the stepladder finals of the three of the last four Queen of the Lanes season-ending tournaments, excluding last weekend's event, kept her hopes alive after dispatching Fabie in the playoff game. Then, against Camacho, Villavicencio must win twice to end her own drought, however the former was right on the money in the first game to hand the latter another bridesmaid finish. (*Saipan Tribune*)

SSS U12 Co-ed Christmas Futsal Tournament



Astig Futsal players, coach Jershwin Angeles, right, and Saipan Soccer School's Angie Ito, right, pose for a group photo during the awarding ceremony for the championship trophy in SSS U12 Co-ed Christmas Futsal Tournament last Saturday at the TSL Sports Complex.



Fake Madrid players and coaches receive certificates of participation in the youth tournament.



San Antonio Footlose players pose for a group photo.



Coaches and players of Spencer United, which was awarded the Fair Play trophy, pose for a group photo.



Saipan Soccer School's Angie Ito, right, hands Bernadette Horey a ball for winning the Golden Boot award in the girls division.



Fake Madrid's Sunjoon Tenorio, right, poses with his mother, Teresa, after winning the Golden Boot award.



Saipan Soccer School's Jershwin Angeles thank parents and coaches for supporting the holiday tournament.



**Clippers beat
Mavs for 13th
home win
in row**
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Saipan Tribune Sports

**Steroids
fallout: No BB
Hall for Bonds,
Clemens**
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Lopez enters semis in Australia



The CNMI's Mikayla Lopez and American Samoa's Anastasia Tapusoa stunned their seeded foes to make it to the semifinals of the girls U16 doubles event of the 2013 Victorian Junior Grasscourt Championships.

Lopez and Tapusoa pulled off an upset over the second-ranked pair of Madison Brackenreg and Julia Stutzel of Australia, winning in straight sets, 6-3, **See LOPEZ on Page 30**

Mikayla Lopez, seen here going for a baseline return during the PIC tournament last year, partnered with American Samoa's Anastasia Tapusoa and made it to the semifinals of the U16 doubles of the 2013 Victorian Junior Grasscourt Championships yesterday in Victoria, Australia.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Ayuyus survive Knights in OT, 83-80

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

MISO The Kagman High School Ayuyus held off a huge fourth quarter rally by the Mount Carmel School Knights to win the opener of the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization boys basketball season, 83-80, last Wednesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

MCS spread the ball around in the opening period and received output from a handful of contributors for an early 16-15 edge, but the Knights were held to just two baskets in the second quarter as KHS exploded to a 36-21 halftime margin.

Anthony Malwelbug's 16 points led KHS' charge in the first half.



Kagman Ayuyus' Anthony Malwelbug converts from down low in the post against Mount Carmel School Knights during the opener of the MISO high school boys basketball season last Wednesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

KHS pressed on to a 60-42 favor after three quarters as Jesse Santos tallied 10 points that was complemented by three more buckets by Malwelbug.

The Knights, however, refused to lay down and mounted an extraordinary comeback with its backs against the wall.

MCS contained the Ayuyus to only a dozen points in the last period of regulation and managed to force overtime with crafty execution of its half court set.

The team worked its way to the line and sank nine free throws that helped them get the momentum running its way in the late minutes.

MCS actually took the lead, 70-69, with just over a minute to go and had some opportunities to end it before the buzzer, but the Ayuyus hung tough and forced the

See AYUYUS on Page 30

Camacho ends four-year drought



The wait is over for Diana Camacho.

The veteran kegler topped Saipan Bowling Association's Budweiser 2012 Queen of the Lanes Tournament, recording her first victory since ruling the same annual competition in 2007. Camacho, who defeated 2006 champion Gina Sablan in the 2007 finale, ended her four-year drought after slipping past Yho Villavicencio in the finals, 173-161, last Sunday at the Capital Bowling Center.

The Camacho-Villavicencio duel for the Queen of the Lanes tiara was arranged after the latter defeated Tess Fabie in the battle for the second and last finals berth, 181-134. The three female bowlers made it to the step-ladder finals after taking the Top 3 spots in the eight-game qualifying tournament.

Camacho reigned supreme in the qualifier after collecting 1,383 pinfalls and averaging 172.88 pinfalls in eight games. She posted at



Camacho

least 200 pinfalls in Games 2 (200), 6 (206) and 7 (202) and adding her 112, 173, 159, 147, and 184 in the four other games. She won the qualifier by 58 pinfalls and gained an automatic finals berth.

Villavicencio placed second in the qualifier with her 1,325, drilling 200-plus pinfalls only once (216 in Game 8). She averaged 165.63 pinfalls after tallying 144, 157, 192, 156, 134,

See CAMACHO on Page 30

J. League coach holds soccer clinic



Akira Yamana-

ka of J. League's

Ehime FC returned to Saipan last week to conduct a short clinic for U12 players at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Yamanaka, who also coaches for Ehime University in Shikoku, Japan and was here for a clinic for the CNMI U15 Team more than a year ago, met with

about 20 players from the various clubs on Saipan and conducted drills and plays and gave pointers to the island's youth players last Saturday.

"I am impressed with these young players. They got my instructions easily and showed high-level skills. I am happy to help them learn new techniques and plays," said Yamanaka,

See J. LEAGUE on Page 30



SAIPAN TRIBUNE
Ehime FC's Akira Yamanaka watches U12 players perform drills during a soccer clinic last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.